Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 324 | WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Are you looking forward to this year's holiday season?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

50 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Shared Goals
President-elect Barack Obama and John McCain search for common ground.

NATION...Page 14

Yellow Sub
Students from Marianas High School take a 50-minute dive aboard a yellow submarine.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Guam lawmakers oppose marine monument plan. **PAGE 2**
Fitial balks at built-in deficit in FY09 budget. **PAGE 3**

Security guard killed at MHS

Police say incident may be linked to burglary at campus

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A security guard was found dead yesterday morning at Marianas High School in Susupe where several classrooms were burglarized.

The incident, which police have classified as a homicide, prompted the Public School System to suspend classes to

See SECURITY on Page 4

FERDIE DELA TORRE

The Marianas High School in Susupe was crawling with police yesterday morning after the killing of the school's security guard.

Absentee votes confirm Kilili victory

AGNES E. DONATO

Commonwealth Election Commission chair Frances Sablan, center, is joined by some commissioners in reviewing some of the absentee ballots during the manual counting held yesterday evening at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Sablan

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 900 absentee ballots were counted by hand last night, confirming Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan as the winner in the Commonwealth's first-ever congressional election.

Delegate-elect Sablan, who is now in Washington, D.C. to attend a briefing for new congressional members, got 2,474, or 23 percent, of the to-

See ABSENTEE on Page 4

Ex-chair of defunct CTC pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

James Michael P. Fitzgerald, former chairman of the defunct Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission accused of stealing $88,202.92 from CTC by issuing unauthorized checks to himself, has entered a guilty plea.

During Monday afternoon's hearing, the 53-year-old Fitzgerald pleaded guilty to five counts of theft involving a total of $16,591.66.

Superior Court Associate Judge David

See EX-CHAIR on Page 4

Shell's fuel 30 cents cheaper

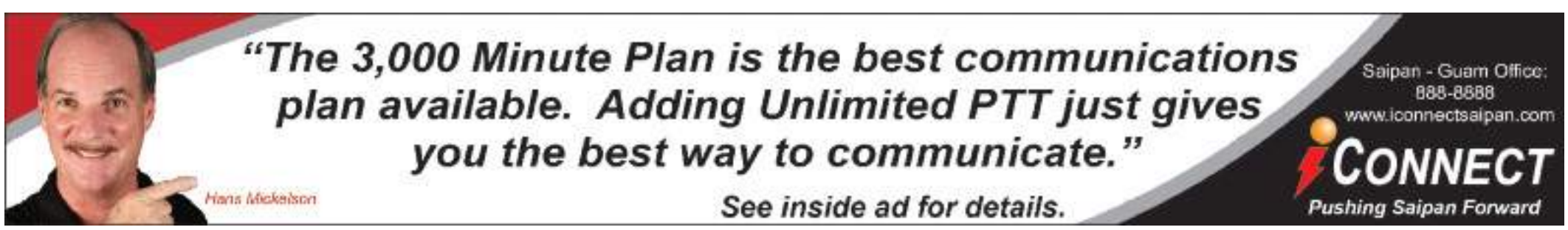
SHELL'S NEW PRICES

REGULAR	
Self-service	$3.43
Full service	$3.56
V POWER	
Self-service	$3.60
Full service	$3.72
Diesel	$4.20

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to the continuing decrease in market costs, Shell Marianas Inc. has once again lowered its prices for regular unleaded, V Power and diesel fuel by 30 cents.

See SHELL'S on Page 4


"The 3,000 Minute Plan is the best communications plan available. Adding Unlimited PTT just gives you the best way to communicate."
Hans Mickelson
See inside ad for details.
Saipan - Guam Office:
888-8888
www.iconnectsaipan.com
iCONNECT
Pushing Saipan Forward

The Brilliant Star School's
4th Annual Holiday Bazaar

Come and join the fun on
Saturday, November 22, 2008
9:00 am to 5.00 pm
at the Multi-Purpose Center Susupe

Special features include

- LOCAL ARTISTS' GIFT ITEMS (PERFECT FOR THE HOLIDAY !)
- CULTURAL AND HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT PERFORMANCES (TO SET THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT !)
- BAKE SALE & BENTO LUNCHES (DELICIOUS!)
- CHILDREN'S ARTS AND CRAFTS (GREAT FAMILY FUN!)
- SILENT "CHILDREN'S ART" AUCTION
- RAFFLES (GREAT PRIZES)
- MUCH, MUCH MORE

Please call 322-STAR for more details.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CJPA – CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, hereby giving notice that the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System, also known as the "Supervisory Council" of the Criminal Justice Planning Agency will hold an Award Meeting on **Tuesday, November 25, 2008, 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M., Napu Conference Room, Pacific Island Club, Saipan.**

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. ROLL CALL
III. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA
IV. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES *(October 17, 2008)*
V. NEW BUSINESS
a. Chairman's Remarks/Overview, Hon. Miguel S. Demapan
b. Executive Director's Report, Jerome Ierome
c. Review and Approval of Sub-grant Application:
1. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Grants:
d. Title II Formula Grant: FY 2006 & FY2008
e. Title V Delinquency Prevention Program: FY2007 & FY2008
f. Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG): FY2007 & FY2008
g. Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Grant: FY2008
2. Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program: FY 2008
3. Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), Edward Byrne Memorial Program, FY2008
4. Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Victims Assistance Formula Program: FY2008
5. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP) Formula Grant Program: FY2007 & FY2008
VI. OLD BUSINESS
VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested individuals are welcome to attend. Should you need more information, please call CJPA at 664-4550-7.

/s/Hon. Miguel S. Demapan
Chairperson

/s/Mr. Jerome Ierome
Executive Director
CJPA

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by Grant Nos. 2007-DB-BX-0076 and 2008-VA-GX-0046 of the Office of Justice Programs and Grant No. 2008-WF-AX-0037 from the Office of Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice.

Local

Sunset Villa on Rota still in the market, says CDA

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Investors from as far as Vanuatu and New Mexico have sent offers to buy the Sunset Villa Beach Cottages on Rota, which is for sale for $750,000.

Oscar C. Camacho, acting chief executive officer for the Commonwealth Development Authority, said the sale is still ongoing and will remain open ended until a satisfactory price is reached.

Camacho said the $75,000 price tag is the lowest that CDA would accept from buyers.

The property is located in Sonton Village along the main road on Rota, spanning 6,422 square meters and has 14 units of cottage-style dwellings on a beach site.

The most recent appraisal done showed a market value of $400,000 for the property. However, a replacement value of the building is estimated at $1.1 million.

"Thus the desired minimum amount of $750,000 is set," Camacho explained.

CDA is also soliciting a hotel management contract to manage the account and operate the property.

Camacho said a restaurant could easily be set up since there is already a kitchen and dining place in the main building.

The second floor of the main building has an unfinished interior, which could be converted into a suite or a residential place.

Camacho said they have received several inquiries and five of these have already submitted "serious" purchase offers or for a purchase/lease arrangement.

See SUNSET on Page 4

Guam lawmakers back opposition to the proposed marine monument

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawmakers in Guam are opposing the proposal to create a Marianas Trench Marine Monument, saying the federal government is pursuing the issue "without either recognizing the indigenous native classification for descendants of CNMI inhabitants or providing an avenue for Guam's self-determination process."

In a resolution supporting the CNMI's Carolinian Affairs Advisory Committee's opposition to the proposal, the 29th Guam Legislature said it is unjust for President Bush to attempt to leave an environmental legacy by way of a national marine monument for the Marianas Trench without first receiving full input from stakeholders in the CNMI, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau and the surrounding territories in the Pacific region.

Senators Judith Guthertz, Rory Respicio and Benjamin Cruz introduced Resolution No. 196.

President Bush wants an area encompassing 115,000 square miles of ocean surrounding the CNMI's three northernmost islands of Asuncion, Maug and Uracas be designated as the Marianas Trench National Marine Monument as part of his "Blue Legacy" project.

"A more appropriate and fitting legacy for President Bush would have been to take steps to further the development of self-determination and self-government for the people of Guam," the resolution states.

Guam, the senators said, continues to be a U.S. territory and is listed in the United Nations as one of the earth's 16 remaining non-self government areas. Each year, the U.S. State Department reports to the U.N. on what the U.S. is doing to bring Guam to self-government.

The Guam lawmakers reiterated their belief that the islands of Micronesia are all communities that draw their economic livelihood, spiritual well-being and civic strength from their God-given, tropical ocean-based environments.

They also said many common activities focus on environmental protection and sustainable development.

They said the Bush proposal offers a protectionist and preservationist approach instead of sustainable use approach.

"The indigenous people of Guam have been fishing in the waters surrounding the Marianas Islands for some 4,000 years and have not damaged the natural resources and are considered good stewards of our ocean environment," they reasoned.

They said the people of Guam joins the CNMI in a cohesive stand to oppose the proposed monument in the CNMI without full consultation with stakeholders.

The Guam lawmakers said management authority must still rest under the Magnuson-Stevenson Act, which involves the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council.

Such responsibilities, they said, should not be transferred to the National Marine Sanctuary Program or other federal agencies.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

PTI would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on November 20th, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before November 20th.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION PTI CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.

Per an earlier announcement, PTI is no longer mailing out past due notices as of 11/01/06.

* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than November 20th. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service please call Customer Service at **682-4PTI (4784)** or visit our Customer Service Representatives at our Chalan Lau-Lau Office.

PTI

Fitial balks at built-in deficit in FY09 budget

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration yesterday lashed out at the Legislature over the latest version of the budget bill, which leaves the governor to decide where to make cuts to prevent a $9.1 million shortfall.

The Senate on Friday passed the bill, which appropriates $174.47 million for government operations despite projections that the government will only have $165.37 million available. The bill is expected to clear the House of Representatives this afternoon.

But the proposed legislation is already drawing criticism from the administration. "Political liability is placed entirely on the governor's shoulders," press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said yesterday.

"The legislators need to identify those cuts and the governor will either approve them or reject them. But it's a delicate political problem. Again, our position has always been to balance the budget," Reyes added.

The Senate-passed budget, which is the product of a joint conference committee between the House and Senate, is premised on a projection that the government will collect $169.55 million in revenue from Oct. 1, 2008, to Sept. 30, 2009. Of this amount, $12.85 million will go to debt service and other pre-existing obligations, leaving $156.7 million available for government operations.

The budget bill proposes to augment this with $3.5 million from several sources outside the general fund, and $5.17 million of "Compact Impact" funds, which is federal government's reimbursement to the Northern Marianas' for the cost of hosting citizens from Micronesia. These additional funds bring to $165.37 million the amount available for government operations in the 2009 fiscal year.

However, the bill provides for a total of $174.47 million in expenditures, about $9.1 million more than the available funds. It also rejects the governor's proposals for balancing the budget, including a reduced retirement contribution rate, a no-work-no-pay policy on legal holidays, and a biweekly shutdown of government offices. Instead of proposing cuts to balance the budget, it sets out statutory provisions that the governor could use to keep costs down.

"The Governor has at his disposal cost-cutting measures, in existing law, regulations, and in accordance with Section 701 of the Joint Conference Committee's Budget proposal, to balance the budget and prevent a deficit," said Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan, the chairwoman of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee and one of the drafters of the budget bill.

She said the governor's budget proposal itself was not balanced.

The governor's submission acknowledged that there are not enough resources in FY 2009 to pay for the cost of running the government. To cover the gap, Fitial provided prewritten legislation raising fees, which has now become law and is expected to raise approximately $2 million a year. To eliminate the remaining shortfall of $6 million, he proposed to implement austerity Fridays and unpaid holidays, and to cut government employer contribution from the actuarially recommended rate of 37.4 percent to 11 percent.

But Pangelinan said, "The Joint Conference Committee did not accept that this constitutes the submission of a balanced budget. We have formulated an alternate budget proposal that has been sent to the House of Representatives for consideration. In it, we are pointing out existing laws and regulations that the governor already has available to him for cutting costs to avoid deficit at the end of FY 2009. Section 701 of the Joint Conference Committee's proposal gives him guidance regarding the prioritization of those options."

Section 701 outlines the manner in which the governor may use existing regulations to cut wages and salaries to avoid deficit spending.

Jollibee
IN CELEBRATION OF OUR 9TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY
Jollibee®
presents
A Search For
Little Miss
Jollibee-Saipan
If you have a Bee-autiful and Talented Little Girl ages from 4 to 8 years old, let her join our contest in search of the very first Little Miss Jollibee-Saipan.
Registration will be on November 16 to 21, 2008 from 9:00am to 9:00pm at Jollibee Store. Photocopy of birth certificate of participants is required upon registration. Participants must be present for initial screening on November 23, 2008.
For inquiries please call 234-7305
Prizes include Cash, Jollibee Novelty Items, Gift Certificates, Plaque, Sash and a lot more exciting prizes
PEPSI

Godfather's
Bar
WHERE EVERYBODY IS FAMILY
To Our Dear Friends in Saipan,
The Management and Staff of Godfather's Bar wish to express our profound gratitude for your prayers and sympathies for the untimely and tragic loss of Hydee, Ann and Ronald.

November is
DIABETES
AWARENES MONTH
Diabetes causes eye disease that can be prevented with regular care.
We are offering free blood pressure and blood sugar testing for all our patients throughout the month.
New patients and walk-ins are welcome! Please call us.
235-2030
SERVICES OFFERED:
• Thorough examinations for eye disease • Treatment for infections and injuries
• Glaucoma treatment • Diabetic eye care • Infant/children eye exams
HARDT EYE CLINIC
DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.
Located on Beach Road next to Megabyte.
We accept most insurance plans and all major credit cards

Labor chief denies transfer for worker

Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas has affirmed the Labor administrative hearing office's decision to deny transfer to an alien worker who reportedly paid $7,000 in China to get a job in the CNMI based on fraudulent documents.

San Nicolas ruled that then Labor hearing officer Barry Hirshbein lawfully used his authority and discretion to deny transfer relief for Xiuyun Zhang.

San Nicolas remanded the issue of damages arising out of recruitment fees paid in China for a re-hearing that will be limited to that issue.

"There is inadequate evidence on the record for a meaningful review," he said.

The hearing officer, San Nicolas said, did in fact fail to address this issue in his decision.

In August 2007, Hirshbein revoked the entry permit issued to Zhang and permanently barred her from working in the CNMI as a nonresident worker.

Hirshbein ordered Zhang to depart the CNMI within 15 days after the employer of record delivers to Labor the repatriation ticket.

"It is clear that [Zhang] entry into the CNMI was based upon fraudulent documents and statements," he pointed out.

The hearing officer found Zhang's employer, Sheng Rong Development Corp., liable to pay the complainant $3,515.04 in wages and liquidated damages.

Hirshbein, however, stressed that even though the complainant prevailed in her wage claim, it is not a recovery under contract.

"Complainant is entitled to compensation on the theory of *quantum meruit* (as much as she deserves) for work performed," the officer said.

He ordered Sheng Rong Development to pay a $1,000 sanction and permanently barred the company from employing alien workers.

Hirshbein also barred Sheng Rong's corporate secretary, Su Xin Guo Edboi, or any corporation in which she is an officer from hiring nonresident workers for three years.

Zhang filed a Labor case against Sheng Rong Development on June 20, 2007, alleging that she worked for the company but was not paid.

Zhang testified she arrived in the CNMI on Feb. 11, 2007, and began working for Sheng Rong Development the next day. She worked seven days per week, eight hours per day until April 16, 2007. She testified she did not receive any wages at all.

Zhang paid RMB 50,000 ($7,000) in China for the promise of a job in the CNMI.

Zhang, through counsel Stephen Woodruff, appealed Hirshbein's decision to the Secretary.

Woodruff asserted that the contract was voidable rather than void and should, therefore, be enforced against the defrauding party.

But San Nicolas said Zhang cites no legal authority for her proposition.

"In the absence of legal authority, the hearing officer's decision to void the contract and to award the wage claim damages is affirmed," San Nicolas said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

New office hours for child care office

Beginning Dec. 1, 2008, the Child Care Program Office will be closed for business every Friday, from 1pm to 4:30pm. This time will be used for administrative purposes, such as processing of clients' applications, re-eligibility, monitoring and other activities essential to the smooth operation of the program.

The new business hours will be:

- Monday to Thursday 7:30am to 4:30pm
- Friday 7:30am to 1pm

Red Cross Health & Safety Trainings

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training for the month December 2008:

- Adult CPR: Dec. 2, Tuesday, 6pm -10pm
- First Aid: Dec. 16, Tuesday, 6pm – 10pm
- Infant & Child CPR: Dec. 20, Saturday, 8am – 1pm.

The training fee for Adult CPR and First Aid is $30 per person/ per course and the training fee for the Infant & Child CPR is $35 per person. A participant's booklet is required. Participant's booklet is $5 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. ***(ARC)***

Invitation to a reunion!

Join the Marriage Encounter Community at a weekend reunion on Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, starting with a 6pm Mass at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral Chapel. This will be followed by the reunion at 6:30pm at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral Social Hall (Joeten-Daidai Social Hall).

For newly encountered couples, this is your final presentation of the Weekend. For encountered couples, come meet the new couples! Refreshments are most welcome—bring any to share. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '88 meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1988 will have a meeting on Friday, Nov. 29, 2008, at the residence of Melvin P. and Eleanor A. Cepeda in As Lito at 6:30pm. All classmates are encouraged to attend this important meeting. If you have any questions, call Eleanor A. Cepeda at 483-6358.

SHELL'S

From Page 1

"Shell's average market cost of regular unleaded, V Power and diesel fuel products continued to decline and Shell will pass these savings on to our customers," company president Eloy Lizama said in a statement yesterday.

The new prices will go into effect at midnight Tuesday.

Shell last cut its prices Nov. 7, also by 30 cents.

There was no immediate word if Mobil Oil Marianas will also lower its prices but the two companies have traditionally mirrored each other's price movements. Mobil does not usually issue media statements about price adjustments.

Light sweet crude oil was trading for $55.44 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange yesterday.

EX-CHAIR

From Page 1

A. Wiseman accepted Fitzgerald's plea and set the sentencing for Feb. 4, 2009, at 9am.

In March 2008, the Attorney General's Office charged the defendant with 28 counts of theft and one count of misconduct in public office.

Fitzgerald and his lawyer, Joey P. San Nicolas, signed a plea agreement with the government, represented by special assistant attorney general Joseph J. Przyuski.

For pleading guilty to five counts of theft, the government agreed to dismiss the remaining charges.

Under the plea agreement, the government will not argue for a jail term exceeding five years.

Fitzgerald agreed to pay full restitution to the government. He will also write a letter of apology to CNMI citizens, to be published in the Letters to the Editor sections in the two local newspapers.

Fitzgerald is also required to pay court costs and probation fees. Upon completing the prison sentence, he will be placed on supervised probation.

The defendant will also be permanently barred from re-employment with the CNMI government.

According to the factual basis of the agreement, Fitzgerald stole from CTC $4,375 on April 18, 2006; $5,750 on April 26, 2006; $2,775 on May 2, 2006; $1,775 on May 8, 2006; and $2,916.66 on May 16, 2006.

According to Public Auditor investigator Rolando Decena's report, Fitzgerald wrote himself a total of 28 CTC checks between April and October 2006.

Decena said none of these 28 checks have supporting documents and none were properly authorized.

Also included was a CTC check that Fitzgerald allegedly used to pay for his wife's plane ticket to Florida.

CTC was abolished in October 2006, with the signing of the law that created the Public Utilities Commission.

ABSENTEE

From Page 1

tal votes cast. That is 357 more than the votes for his closest opponent, Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, who received 2,117, or 20 percent.

The absentee ballot count, which took two and a half hours, revealed that the two rivals matched almost vote for vote. Sablan got 195 absentee votes and Tenorio gained 198.

"There's nothing we can do. That's the people's choice. We wish the delegate-elect the best for the next two years," said former representative Ana Teregeyo, a supporter of Tenorio.

Retired judge Juan T. Lizama garnered the largest number of absentee votes, 208. With a total of 1,819, Lizama remained in the fourth spot. He came behind television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales, who got 1,855 votes, including 115 from off-island voters.

The other five candidates who ran are: Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo, who got 67 absentee votes, for a total of 946 votes; former senator David M. Cing, 37 absentee votes for a total of 307 votes; businessman Chong Won, 11 absentee votes for a total of 230 votes; Saipan Municipal councilman Felipe Atalig, 21 absentee votes for a total of 228 votes; and high school teacher John Davis Jr., 15 absentee votes for a total of 164 votes.

The Commonwealth Election Commission mailed out 1,118 absentee ballots, and received 927 returns—or 82 percent—as of yesterday. Only 867 were counted. The 60 rejected returns include: 41 that were mailed after the Nov. 4 deadline, 10 that had no postmarks, five exposed ballots, two unmarked ballots, one ballot that had multiple marks, and one empty envelope.

Overall, 10,335, or 79 percent, of registered voters participated in the historic election.

SUNSET

From Page 2

These offers came from companies from as far as Vanuatu to New Mexico and range from $300,000 to $700,000.

Camacho said some of the proposed lease rental arrangements have a starting amount of $3,000 per month.

Member of the CDA board have met three of the potential buyers and have instructed Camacho to proceed with negotiations.

Camacho said CDA had even received security deposits as proof of the seriousness of the offers. "However, the board was concerned with the low prices, as well as the best offers that never really got off the ground because of concerns revealed in the background checks of certain individuals involved in the transaction."

Camacho said that during the course of all these negotiations, CDA initially believed that it would finally dispose of the hotel and had decided to close its own management in anticipation of closing the deal with investors.

"Unfortunately, CDA finds itself in a situation where it had to move its CDA and NMHC offices to simply be able to maintain the hotel," Camacho said.

He said that they are still open to whatever arrangement works best for all parties involved and has not ruled out another hotel management/consultant arrangement, which would have someone operating the hotel.

"There appears to be good prospect with what is happening to the casino initiative on Rota and there is opportunity there for hoteliers and or casino operators," Camacho said.

SECURITY

From Page 1

prevent students from going inside the campus. Classes remain suspended today.

The victim was found lying in a pool of blood along the hallway near the parking lot.

Acting Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jason Tarkong said the fatality was a 45-year-old Filipino security guard. He refused to release the victim's identity pending notification of the nearest kin.

Sources, however, identified the victim as Efren Ballesteros, an employee of Global Security Agency.

As of 4pm yesterday, no arrests have been made yet, but investigators are said to be following leads.

To his knowledge, Tarkong said, this is the first homicide case this year in the CNMI and is also the first homicide inside a school campus.

Tarkong said the victim was pronounced dead upon arrival at the Commonwealth Health Center.

He said a person had called 911 at 6:13am yesterday, reporting a possible dead person at the MHS campus.

"Police arrived and they found a Filipino security guard, 45, with no pulse and no breathing. He was [pronounced] dead upon arrival [at the hospital]," Tarkong said.

Based on the preliminary investigation, the victim died possibly due to blunt trauma, he said. "I can't go into the details of that," he added.

In addition, Tarkong said several classrooms were burglarized. He declined to specify what items were taken.

He said investigators believe that the killing and the burglary were related.

"They [investigators] are still processing the scene. The school was closed as a result of that," Tarkong said.

"If you look at the perimeter of the school it's a large campus. So we are trying to look for any possible evidence," he added.

Tarkong said he was not aware if any murder weapon was recovered from the scene.

He said the school would remain closed until further notice, adding that the first 48 hours of a homicide case is very critical to the investigation.

He said an MHS employee who had arrived to open the school's gate found the victim lying on the ground along the hallway.

DPS will release the 24-hour preliminary report this morning (Wednesday).

"So whatever details that I am allowed to release will be released by tomorrow morning," he said.

Tarkong said they are appealing to anyone who has information about the homicide as well as the burglary and theft to call DPS.

He said the NMI Crime Stoppers Program is offering up to $1,000 cash reward to anyone who can provide information that will lead to an arrest.

Between 9:30am and 11am, *Saipan Tribune* saw several police investigators at the MHS campus. Investigators surrounded the vicinity of the hallway with yellow crime scene tape. Ballesteros' car was parked near the hallway.

Some teachers and MHS vice principal Lumi Bermudes were seen yesterday morning near the gate talking with some parents who had inquired what was going on.

At 9:40am, Chief Prosecutor Kevin Lynch arrived at the campus.

Vice principal Bermudes said it was the Education Commissioner's decision to cancel classes.

"We stopped everybody from coming in. There was no student yet at the time, only our staff who came early," Bermudes said.

Friends described Ballesteros as a joker and a very nice person.

Saipan Tribune learned that Ballesteros had two children on Saipan. He was set to have a christening for his youngest—a four-month old baby—this Sunday.

PUC extends deadline for director applicants

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public Utilities Commission has extended the deadline to receive applications for the position of PUC executive director.

Applications now are due Monday, Nov. 24.

"We felt it was in the best interest of PUC to extend it to next Monday," said Kyle Calabrese, vice chair of the Commission. The number of applicants initially received was not immediately known.

It is not required that the PUC have an executive director, but it would help the Commission's operation, Calabrese said.

"There's no statutory requirement that the position be filled, but obviously as we start getting down to business, it's going to make it much more efficient for the Commission to operate with a full time employee," he said.

PUC must review and set utility rates before the Dec. 31, 2008, deadline set by law. If the PUC fails to meet this deadline, CUC will be forced to reduce power rates down to 17 cents per kWh-a prospect that will make it impossible for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to pay for fuel supply and maintenance of its engines and to pay its independent power producers.

Calabrese said the qualifications and requirements of the job have not changed.

The PUC executive director oversees the overall operation of the Commission's office, and should have general knowledge of PUC's enabling act and able to track legislative decisions affecting PUC, according to the job announcement. The position requires collecting and organizing material required for PUC to conduct meetings. The director prepares reports, including budget and expense reports.

"The executive director also independently researches, organizers and provides background information on sensitive correspondence issues requiring the personal attention of the Commission," according to the job announcement.

Candidates for the position should be able to communicate effectively and work independently and under pressure.

"In addition," the announcement states, "applicant must display discretion, tact, poise and be diplomatic in dealing with a wide variety of people as well as a wide range of inquiries."

The candidate is required to have a high school diploma and previous work experience in an administrative capacity for at least five years; proficient in desktop applications; able to produce high quality work; have excellent English composition, spelling and grammar; and excellent communication skills.

Meanwhile, consultants hired by PUC are analyzing data provided by CUC. The consultants will prepare a study and give their rate recommendation to the PUC Commission, which will then approve, reject or modify the recommendation.

KRISTI EATON

From left to right, Juan Lizama, FHB Saipan area manager; Carmen Fernandez, NMC president; Maureen Maratita, Guam Business magazine publisher; Ashley Sikayun, scholarship recipient; Roxanne Ferrer, scholarship recipient; Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, FHB senior vice president and region manager for CNMI and Guam; Stella Fong, executive vice president for Glimpses publications; Vicky Conception, FHB Oleai Branch; and Daisy Propst, NMC.

2 NMC students get $2K scholarship

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Paying for college will be a little easier for two Northern Marianas College students, thanks to First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business* magazine.

Ashley Sikayun, an elementary education junior, and Roxanne Ferrer, a business administration freshman, both received checks for $2,200 at a ceremony yesterday at the Gualo Rai branch of FHB.

The two girls found out they were the recipients of the scholarship money last week, but they didn't find out how much the scholarship was for until yesterday's ceremony.

"It's one of the biggest things I've ever experienced," Ferrer said about the check, laughing at the double meaning. "I can put it on my ceiling."

Sikayun said she was honored to receive the scholarship.

"It's a really big blessing," she said. "I'm so privileged to be a recipient of this."

NMC president Carmen Fernandez was also in the dark about how much money the girls would receive. She was hoping for $2,000 for each of the girls, so she said she was pleasantly surprised when it was revealed each scholarship was for $2,200.

This is the third year that FHB and *Guam Business* magazine have offered scholarships but the first year for the CNMI to take part. Seven students from the University of Guam and Guam Community College will receive scholarship checks today. The total amount given out this year is $25,600.

"Education is our future," said Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, FHB senior vice president and region manager for the CNMI and Guam. "Students are the future. This is what we feel we should value."

The proceeds for the scholarships came from the Businesswomen of the Year awards gala held earlier this year. Rose Perez Duenas, a physical therapist and owner/clinical director of Sports, Orthopedic and Active Rehabilitation on Guam won the third annual award.

Your Holiday Helper!
Debit
MasterCard
First Hawaiian Bank
MARIA CRUZ
The more you spend, the more you receive
with the Continental Airlines OnePass®
Debit Card or Credit Card.
Every purchase earns you miles to help
get you closer to your dream destination.
Don't have a Continental Airlines
OnePass® Debit Card or Credit Card?
Visit any branch or fhb.com and apply today!
Continental Airlines OnePass
First Hawaiian Bank
We say Yes
Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090 Fax: (670) 235-3094
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan LauLau • Tel: (670) 234-6559 Fax: (670) 236-8936
fhb.com
Member FDIC
Subject to credit approval. All OnePass program rules and conditions apply, including Continental's right to terminate or modify the OnePass program. To review OnePass membership rules, visit continental.com/onepass. OnePass Miles Program owned and operated by Continental Airlines.

"One of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region"
— Retinal Physician Magazine, April 2008
Come see!
Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"
Meeting your eye care needs with excellence.
One-Hour Glasses • Contacts • Medicine, Surgery • Laser
Dr. Mark Robertson, OD
Magna Cum Laude
Dr. David Khorram, MD
"America's Top Ophthalmologists"
Walk-Ins Welcome
Yes! We accept Aetna, Staywell, Medicaid/Medicare, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Tricare, and more
235-9090
Beach Road, Garapan, Across 13 Fishermen Monument • MarianasEye.com

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

The Marianas Visitors Authority is seeking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

	POSITION:	CLOSING DATE:
JVA#08-001	Chief Accountant	December 2, 2008 or until filled
JVA#08-006	Personnel Manager	December 2, 2008

HOW TO APPLY

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority office at (670) 664-3200/01 or by emailing personnel@mymarianas.com for employment application forms. All applicants must submit an MVA employment application plus other required documents in order to be considered for any of the positions listed above. All applications should be submitted to the MVA office no later than the closing date of the announcement.

MVA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

© 2008 Continental Airlines, Inc.

LAU LAU BAY
TO TUMON BAY.

Take advantage of our terrific fare to your Marianas Island neighbor Guam.

Whether it's your overnight bag or your golf bag, now is a great time to hop on over to Guam for a quick getaway. Plus, you'll be earning miles on OnePass®, our frequent flyer program. For reservations call Continental Airlines at (866) 359-6453, or visit continental.com.

(Fare below is based on oneway travel. Fuel surcharge included.)

SAIPAN TO GUAM ONEWAY
$91

Continental Airlines
Continental **Connection**

Work Hard.
Fly Right.®

Round Trip price $138 not including fuel surcharge of $44 and taxes of as much as $27.36. Travel Period: Travel must commence: Immediately to November 30, 2008. Last ticket date: November 15, 2008. Applicable Routing: SPN-GUM-SPN. Flight Restriction: Travel permitted is "NOT" permitted on the following flights: 9606, 9596, 9603, 9317. Res/Ticketing: Tickets must be issued 1 day after confirmation of booking or at least 1 day prior to scheduled departure whichever is earlier but not later than November 15, 2008. Minimum stay: No restrictions. Maximum stay: No restrictions. Stopovers: Not permitted. Wait List: Not permitted. Other Discounts: Accompanied child 2-11 - NO DISCOUNT. Infant under 2 with seat- NO DISCOUNT. Infant under 2 without seat - charge 10% of the fare. Unaccompanied child 5-11 - NO DISCOUNT. Senior Citizen - NO DISCOUNT. AD/TC - NOT PERMITTED. OnePass® upgrades and other marketing programs - PERMITTED. Penalties: Changes to Itinerary- anytime - NOT PERMITTED. Cancellation - TICKETS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE. Flight operated by Cape Air pursuant to a code share agreement with Continental Airlines.

Investors and lawyer fight over Rota poker machines

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A businessman has filed a lawsuit against attorney Ramon Quichocho and his wife, along with other persons, in a squabble over 10 poker machines on Rota.

Quichocho, however, also filed a lawsuit on behalf of his wife and company, Tan Dingo LLC, against businessman Byung Kook Choi, Pacific Rota LLC, and five unnamed co-defendants.

Choi and his company, Pacific Rota LLC, sued Ramon Quichocho, Frances Quichocho, Vianney Hocog, Fidel S. Mendiola, Abelina T. Mendiola, Jung Ja Kim, and Dan Bi Choi.

Choi and Pacific Rota, through counsel Stephen Woodruff, sued the defendants for interference with prospective advantage and contractual relations, trespass, wrongful ejectment, civil breach of peace, conversion, conspiracy, breach of contract, and fraud.

In addition, Choi and Pacific Rota sued attorney Quichocho for eye poking assault, screwdriver assault, and false imprisonment.

According to Woodruff, Choi and his wife are members of Pacific Rota that owns Rota Poker II in Sinapalo.

Choi and Pacific Rota wants the Superior Court to issue a temporary restraining order restoring them to their business premises and the defendants from interfering with that business.

Choi and Pacific Rota asked the court to order the defendants to stay at least 200 yards away from the premises of Rota Poker II. They also asked the court to protect them from business interference or threats to person or property pending final disposition of the case.

Woodruff said that in 2004, Choi leased an 800-square-foot building in Sinapalo from Abelina Mendiola for use as the business premises of Rota Poker II for a term of five years.

Due to delays in construction, the expiration date of the lease was extended to Sept. 30, 2009, according to Woodruff.

In October 2006, Woodruff said, attorney Quichocho told Choi that his wife Frances holds leasehold ownership of the Rota Poker II business premises as of Oct. 1, 2008.

Woodruff said the defendants, or some of them, overpowered Choi and ejected him the premises by forcing Rota Poker II customers to leave, changing the locks, and taking physical control of the premises.

But Mrs. Quichocho and Tan Dingco LLC, through Ramon Quichocho, also sued Choi and Pacific Rota, for conversion.

Attorney Quichocho asked the court to order the defendants to pay them damages for lost earnings. He also asked for a temporary restraining order and injunction restraining Choi from selling or damaging 10 poker machines at Rota Poker II.

Attorney Quichocho said that on Oct. 7, 2008, Pacific Saipan LLC sold and transferred its rights and ownership of 10 poker machines to Tan Dingco for $25,000 pursuant to a written bill of sale.

Attorney Quichocho said that even after the purchase of the 10 machines, Choi continued to manage the business and refused to report any income or expenses.

He said that on Oct. 13, 2008, Choi brought the 10 poker machines out of the Sinapalo premises and took them to Rota Poker I in Songsong Village.

Man'amko ask for apology

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A dozen *man'amko* have signed a letter asking for an apology that stems from an anti-monument resolution.

In October, several members of the Man'amko Advisory Board said they were not given a chance to read the anti-monument resolution and were told by Rose Mondala, the federal program coordinator for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, that in order to sit down and eat they would have to sign the resolution. When several of the *man'amko* refused, they were allegedly told it didn't matter because they were not local.

A few days later, Taotao Tano president Gregorio Cruz asked Office on Aging director Howard Macaranas to investigate the alleged incident and other abuses the group said had occurred. Mondala responded to Cruz saying the accusations were "baseless and without merit."

"Yes, the local *man'amko* did sign the resolution but no one was forced nor compelled to sign the petition," Mondala said in response to Cruz.

In an earlier interview, Monala reiterated the same remarks.

"The outsiders didn't sign it," she said. "All the locals signed it."

The *man'amko* who say they were told to sign the resolution and several others who say they witnessed the incident wrote a letter to Macaranas asking DCCA to intervene in order for Mondala to apologize and retract her statement that the accusations were baseless.

"I feel obligated to write this letter so that the concerning individuals and myself will have their reputation spared and be cleared," Man'amko Advisory Council member Terry Sorroza wrote in the letter. She attached the name and signatures of 11 *man'amko* who were reportedly harassed or are willing to testify.

On Monday, Macaranas wrote a letter to Sorroza stating he would e-mail Mondala to set up a meeting.

"All we want is for her to come and say 'OK, maybe I said it because I'm mad and I'm sorry,'" Terroza said. "That's all we want."

Mayor's office looks into alleged illegal cockfight

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela declined yesterday to issue a statement—at least for the moment—pending an investigation into the presence of an alleged illegal cockfight operation in San Antonio.

This was according to the mayor's public information officer, Tony Benavente, who said that Tudela is not yet in a position to comment.

He said Tudela wants a full investigation into the issue and "we are still waiting for the report [by the Department of Public Safety]."

Cockfight gaming operator MaryAnn Calvo said the illegal cockfighting activity at the San Antonio beachside pavilion happened on Sunday. She said she was able to enter the area and saw the presence of a former congressman who is a current member of the Cockfight Board.

Benavente said that DPS is now conducting an investigation about cockfight gaming in the area, which is said to be notorious for hosting such illegal activities.

He said the mayor wants to review the whole report and will issue an official statement once everything is completed.

The Saipan Mayor's Office authorizes only one person or entity to conduct cockfight operations, based on a public bidding process in accordance with the law.

Calvo's cockfighting arena is the only one authorized to conduct cockfighting activities on Saipan.

Violators would be penalized $600 or imprisonment of not more than three months or both.

Calvo warned that nonresidents who engage in illegal cockfighting may also be subjected to deportation, based on immigration rules.

Energy Fair moved to Nov. 29

The annual Energy Fair has been moved from Nov. 26 to Nov. 29, the office of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program said yesterday.

The fair's overall coordinator, George Fitial, said the activity will be held at the 4-H Civic Center Saturday next week, from 9am to 3pm.

The fair aims to educate people on how to conserve utilities and cost, especially during these times of economic crisis.

Fitial said this would be the seventh year LIHEAP is conducting this kind of activity.

Similar events but smaller ones were recently held on Rota and Tinian.

Fitial said they have invited a number of business establishments to sell their products related to energy savings such as fans, solar water heaters, bulbs and other items.

Interested storeowners who want to set up a booth at the venue may contact Fitial at 287-2577 or 2576 and 2574.

The fair is being done in coordination with government agencies that are involved with energy issues like the Department of Public Health, Department of Public Safety, and the Division of Environmental Quality.

Earlier, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Cecilia Taitano-Celes said this fair is timely because "we have to find ways to make people aware of several methods of energy conservation."

"We urge them to join and bring any kind of promotional tools," she said.

She said the fair is a way of combining the little things that can be done to save on energy costs.

LIHEAP will be giving away raffle prizes such as butane gas, light bulbs, aprons and other things that are useful at home. ***(Nazario Rodriguez)***

PUBLIC NOTICE

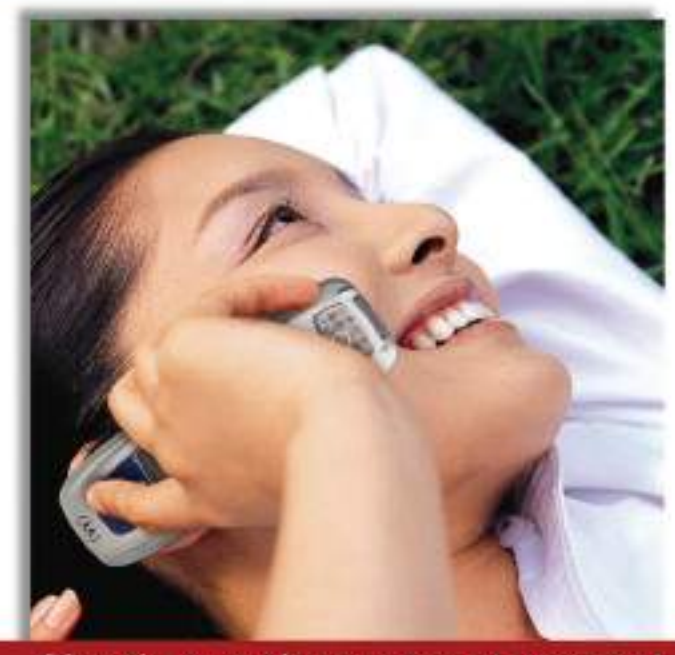
Kim & Cho's Co., Ltd. a.k.a. Cool Steam Car Wash and Pacific Rent-a-Car

Joo Sun Kyou aka Jimmy Joo

The public is hereby given notice that **JOO SUN KYOU**, also known as Jimmy Joo, is no longer associated with or authorized to act on behalf of KIM & CHO'S CO., LTD. – a domestic corporation doing business on Saipan as COOL STEAM CAR WASH and PACIFIC RENT-A-CAR. Joo Sun Kyou is no longer serving as the manager of, or in any other capacity for, the corporation or its businesses.

Any business or transactions entered into with this individual will not be honored by KIM & CHO'S CO., LTD.

Best rate plan on island!



3,000 MINUTE PLAN
with UNLIMITED PUSH-TO-TALK
Only $59.99/mo.

Check out these great prices!

i415
Postpaid FREE with any plan
Prepaid only $33 with $30 airtime value

i425
Postpaid only $48.88 with any plan
Prepaid only $78.88 with $12.50 airtime value

i335
Postpaid only $78.88 with any plan
Prepaid only $138.88 with $30 airtime value

i455
Postpaid only $38.88 with any plan
Prepaid only $88.88 with $12.50 airtime value

Preferred rates & other conditions for 3,000 Minute Plan:
FREE 180 local text · Rates per text: 5¢ for excess in Guam & Saipan, 10¢ for US, Alaska & Hawai, 5¢ for Phils., 12¢ for other countries · Calls to continental US, Hawaii & Alaska at 5¢/min. · Calls to the Phils. at 25¢/min. · Guam – CNMI coverage · 20¢/excess local minute charge · New sign-ups only · 24-month contract · Prices exclude gov't. taxes & fees · Conditions apply.

Saipan - Guam Office: 888-8888 | www.iconnectsaipan.com

iCONNECT
Let's Build Saipan Together

BRUCE L. MAILMAN
CNMI BAR ASSN #F0153
MAILMAN & KARA, LLC
PMB 238, Box 10,000,
Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Telephone: 233-0081
Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LPP MORTGAGE, LTD., Plaintiff, -v- VICENTE I. TEREGEYO JING YU GUAN STEPHANSON, Defendants.	)))))))))	CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0111 **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on November 13, 2008, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants Vicente I. Teregeyo and Jing Yu Guan Stephanson in and to the following properties located in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

LOT 005 1 320, containing an area of 965 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 005 107 dated September 30, 1983.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on December 10, 2008, at the hour of 3:30 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2 d Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated, Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. Court Approval. Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 17th day of November, 2008:

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

Scholarship reps at NMC info session

Representatives from the CNMI Scholarship Office will be on hand at the Northern Marianas College's free information session on Thursday evening to answer questions about the new scholarship offered to full-time employees who wish to enroll part-time at the college.

Full-time government and private sector employees are eligible to apply for this scholarship. NMC staff will also be available to help fill out scholarship forms and other documents that may require assistance.

The free information session, which will be held tomorrow, Nov. 20, from 6pm to 8pm, at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Seaside Hall, will provide participants an opportunity to learn about the college.

Representatives from different degree and certificate programs, as well as counseling, financial aid, and admissions staff will also be available to answer questions. Current students will also be speaking about their experiences at NMC and will be also be fielding questions.

Individuals who attend this free information session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for the Spring 2009 semester. This represents a savings of about $75.

NMC offers degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, associate degrees in business, liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, hospitality management, and more. Moreover, it offers certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

The free information session is open to everyone, including graduating seniors and their parents, government and private sector employees, international students, and members of the public. ***(NMC)***

DUI checkpoints this weekend

The Saipan Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints this weekend.

The first will be on Friday, Nov. 21, on Beach Road Susupe by Minatchom Atdao from 10pm until 11:15pm, followed by another on Chalan Pale Arnold Road, in Gualo Rai, by the Sherwin-Williams Building, from 3am to 4:15am.

The next one will be on Saturday, Nov. 22, on Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Chalan Laulau, by the PTI building, from 7:30pm to 8:45pm. The second setup will be on Beach Road, Susupe by the Multi-Purpose Building from 10pm to 11:15pm.

In addition to the checkpoints, officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions and laser activities. ***(DPS)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

November 19, 1999

U.S. inspector general asked to probe SBDC

Saying that ulterior motive was behind a proposal seeking to remove the Small Business Development Center under the wings of the Northern Marianas College, Rep. Oscar M. Babauta yesterday said he would seek a probe by the U.S. Inspector General into the planned transfer of the SBDC to the Commonwealth Development Authority. The House Commerce and Tourism Committee chairman questioned the integrity of the agency's ex-director Jack Peters in pressing for the closure of NMC-SBDC as he noted that the move may have been motivated by a "personal vendetta" against college officials.

Transfer would ensure proper use of funds

Commonwealth Development Authority Board Chairman John S. Tenorio yesterday said he is seeking control of the Small Business Development Center from the Northern Marianas College to make sure that federal grants are properly handled. CDA's concern over the local SBDC stemmed from the recent findings of an investigation that the funds given to the center is not efficiently managed by the College. Instead of losing the federal grant as much as $200,000 a year, Tenorio said, he would rather takeover management of SBDC from NMC.

November 19, 2001

Republicans rule 13th House 18-2

The CNMI Commission on Election officially certified the next set of Commonwealth leaders Saturday, after completing the tabulation of absentee ballots for the November 3 polls. Only 716 of the 1,026 absentee ballots mailed out by the Commission on Election were sent back by off-island CNMI voters. But COE Executive Director Greg Sablan said only 635 ballots were considered valid.

School mate accused of rape

A Hopwood Junior High School student complained Thursday that she was raped by a fellow student inside an abandoned house in Dandan, police reported over the weekend. Department of Public Safety spokesperson Cecilia T. Celes said the victim attended school Thursday morning and told a school counselor that a 14-year-old boy forced sex on her.

November 19, 2002

CHC lacks transport unit for critically ill infants

For about a year now, the Commonwealth Health Center has been lacking a special equipment to transport critically ill infants who need urgent offshore medical attention. Denyse Calderwood, CHC Natal Intensive Care Unit chief nurse, said yesterday there has not been enough funding for the purchase and certification of the equipment, called Infant Transport System, which is used to transport infant-patients who are on life support machines.

Business as usual for referral patients

Some 13 CNMI patients referred to Honolulu for medical treatment continue to be entertained by various health providers, said Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero, who confirmed this in a meeting with CNMI Liaison officials in Hawaii last Friday. The Saipan senator, who was there to attend other meetings, made it a point to stop by the Liaison Office located at the Hurst Building, Ala Moana Boulevard, to check up on the status of the offshore patients, in the wake of the funding woes that has recently threatened healthcare services to government-insured patients.

November 19, 2003

'Change Senate composition'

"Taxation without representation." A disgruntled Saipan resident lifted the words from history, in reaction to the Senate majority's decision to suspend its minority counterparts, three of which make up the entire Saipan Senate representation. "The people of Saipan are now not fully represented. Either they remove that or we go through another process of election, but we want our elected officials to be present. I don't think they have committed any felony that justifies suspension," aired the concerned resident.

Soldiers of the Guam Army National Guard undergo a briefing during a stopover in Guam on Nov. 5 on their way to Hawaii.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Army Guard soldiers return home today

About 30 soldiers of the Guam Army National Guard will be arriving today, Nov. 19, after six months of being deployed to the Southern Philippines.

The soldiers, who are with the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, will be flying in today from Honolulu via Continental's Flight No. 1.

The group was originally scheduled to return home Nov. 18. They were in the Philippines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom – Philippines.

The soldiers had stopped over at Andersen Air Force Base on Nov. 5 on their way to Hawaii, where they were demobilized. During the short stopover, the soldiers were greeted by members of the Guam Army and Air Guard, family members and friends at the Guam Air Guard's 254th REDHORSE building on Andersen. Several leaders of the Guam Guard, including Lt. Gov. Mike Cruz, commander of the Medical Command, were present to greet them.

The Guam National Guard's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Donald J. Goldhorn, met with the group in Hawaii. He had also visited them in the Philippines last month.

The Guam National Guard is a partner with the Republic of the Philippines in the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program.

The 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry also has another company, Team Alpha, currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the Global War on Terror. The unit, approximately 180 soldiers total, deployed to Afghanistan early February and is scheduled to demobilize in Hawaii in late November.

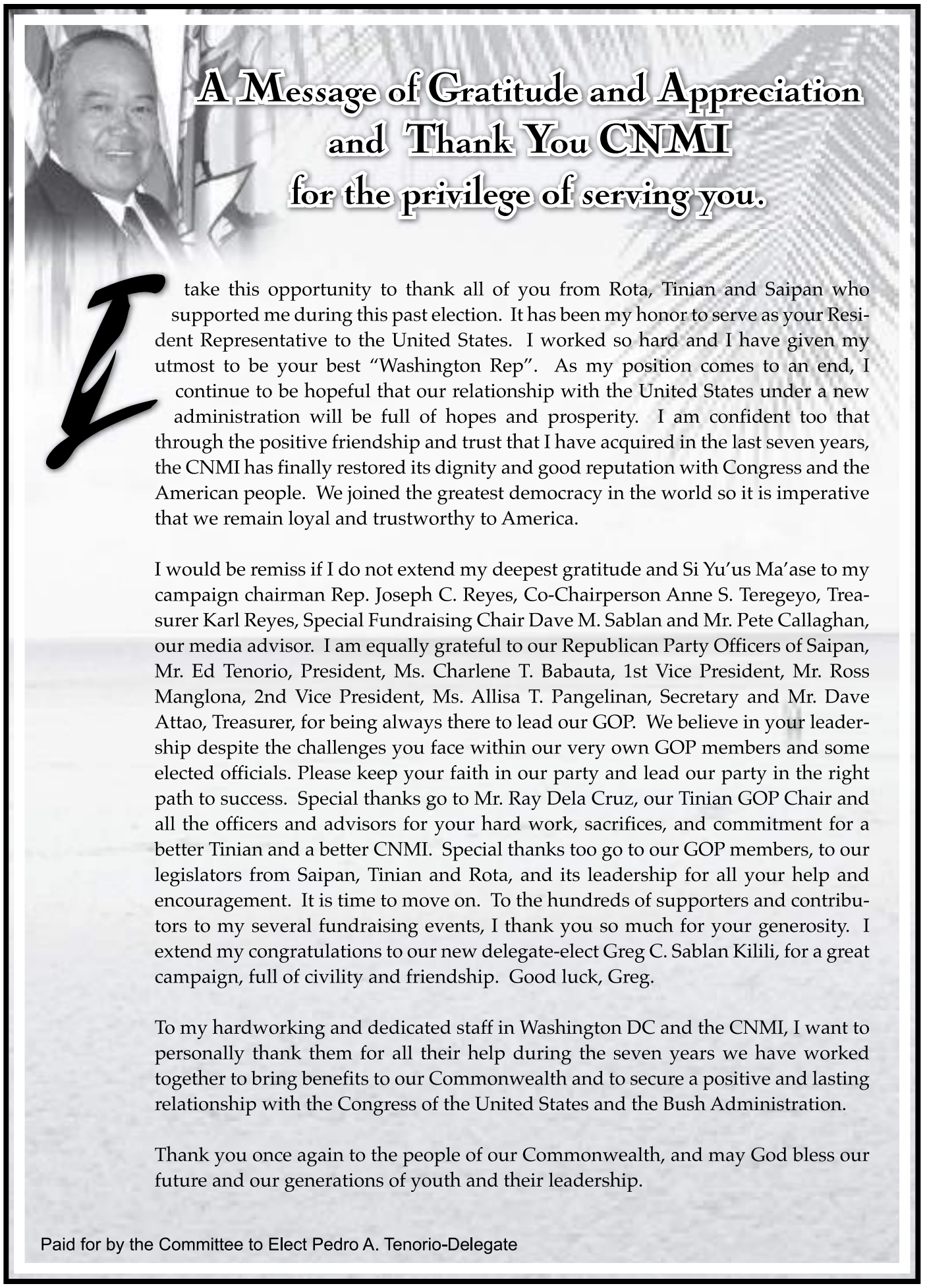
The Guam Reserve also has a 14-man Embedded Training Team deployed to Afghanistan to assist in the training of the Afghan National Army and Police. The team deployed to Afghanistan in February and is set to demobilize at Fort Riley, Kansas in late November.

There are 18 soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, who are deployed with Hawaii 's 29th Brigade Combat Team to Operation Iraqi Freedom, and are scheduled to demobilize next August.

Additionally, the Guam Reserve has 14 soldiers augmenting the 33rd BCT from North Carolina for approximately 18 months. They are still participating in Mobilization Station training at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, before heading to Afghanistan this month. This team will be providing a variety of duties to include the Task Force Engineer commander, personnel support, logistics support, medical support and security forces.

There are also six Guam soldiers currently deployed with the 39th BCT out of Arkansas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, who are scheduled to return this December.

Today, there are about 200 Guam Army Guard soldiers and 18 Air Guard airmen deployed abroad in Afghanistan and Iraq. ***(PR)***


A Message of Gratitude and Appreciation
and Thank You CNMI
for the privilege of serving you.
I take this opportunity to thank all of you from Rota, Tinian and Saipan who supported me during this past election. It has been my honor to serve as your Resident Representative to the United States. I worked so hard and I have given my utmost to be your best "Washington Rep". As my position comes to an end, I continue to be hopeful that our relationship with the United States under a new administration will be full of hopes and prosperity. I am confident too that through the positive friendship and trust that I have acquired in the last seven years, the CNMI has finally restored its dignity and good reputation with Congress and the American people. We joined the greatest democracy in the world so it is imperative that we remain loyal and trustworthy to America.
I would be remiss if I do not extend my deepest gratitude and Si Yu'us Ma'ase to my campaign chairman Rep. Joseph C. Reyes, Co-Chairperson Anne S. Teregeyo, Treasurer Karl Reyes, Special Fundraising Chair Dave M. Sablan and Mr. Pete Callaghan, our media advisor. I am equally grateful to our Republican Party Officers of Saipan, Mr. Ed Tenorio, President, Ms. Charlene T. Babauta, 1st Vice President, Mr. Ross Manglona, 2nd Vice President, Ms. Allisa T. Pangelinan, Secretary and Mr. Dave Attao, Treasurer, for being always there to lead our GOP. We believe in your leadership despite the challenges you face within our very own GOP members and some elected officials. Please keep your faith in our party and lead our party in the right path to success. Special thanks go to Mr. Ray Dela Cruz, our Tinian GOP Chair and all the officers and advisors for your hard work, sacrifices, and commitment for a better Tinian and a better CNMI. Special thanks too go to our GOP members, to our legislators from Saipan, Tinian and Rota, and its leadership for all your help and encouragement. It is time to move on. To the hundreds of supporters and contributors to my several fundraising events, I thank you so much for your generosity. I extend my congratulations to our new delegate-elect Greg C. Sablan Kilili, for a great campaign, full of civility and friendship. Good luck, Greg.
To my hardworking and dedicated staff in Washington DC and the CNMI, I want to personally thank them for all their help during the seven years we have worked together to bring benefits to our Commonwealth and to secure a positive and lasting relationship with the Congress of the United States and the Bush Administration.
Thank you once again to the people of our Commonwealth, and may God bless our future and our generations of youth and their leadership.
Paid for by the Committee to Elect Pedro A. Tenorio-Delegate

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 324

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Not quite Mount Everest

The world leaders who assembled in Washington on the weekend managed to make it into town, deliver their speeches and issue their communique while financial markets around the globe remained closed. This ensured that investors would be able to digest whatever the summiteers did—or failed to do—well before the next opening bell. There would have been no use having a summit on financial stability only to trigger some wild new gyration in Hong Kong or on Wall Street.

And, in the event, the summit produced cause for neither euphoria nor alarm. Hosted by the lame-duck president of the United States, whose crippled economy is nevertheless the world's most important, it met the modest expectations with which it began. The leaders issued a broad but fundamentally nonbinding agenda for overhauling financial market regulation the details of which will be debated at a subsequent meeting in London in the spring—and probably many more meetings after that.

According to the document, regulators should move credit derivatives from over-the-counter transactions to more transparent clearinghouses—as U.S. authorities are already doing—and should make credit rating agencies avoid conflicts of interest. Banks won't get a global superregulator, but they might have to report regularly to a "college of supervisors." There won't be international controls on executive compensation, but there will be a study on how to keep bank bosses' pay from providing an incentive for excessive risk-taking. Countries won't be required to enact fiscal stimulus programs all at once, but they have been advised that it might be a good idea to take action separately. The International Monetary Fund will be expected to help bail out developing countries, but, except for $100 billion that Japan has committed, it's still not clear where the extra resources will come from. At least the summiteers promised to avoid adding protectionist measures for the next year—a "do no harm" pledge they would be wise to extend well beyond that period.

The historical importance of this meeting consisted less in what it accomplished than in who attended it. For the first time, the major industrial countries of Western Europe, North America and Japan consented to talk seriously about global economic management with such nations as China, Brazil, India and Saudi Arabia. To some extent, the greater inclusiveness was simply a recognition of necessity: These and other emerging markets are predicted to generate all of the world's economic growth in 2009; China and the Gulf states are among the few countries with sufficient reserves to supply the IMF and other multilateral financial institutions. But these are not mere short-term trends. For the West, the delicate business of sharing more wealth and power with non-Western countries, not all of which are democracies, has just begun. The challenge of completing that task, on terms consistent with U.S. interests and values, now belongs to President-elect Barack Obama.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Obamanomics 101

How to bail out the economy, one obamapreneur at a time

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT *Creating economic success for the CNMI*

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Ka-Ching!

My friend, Stacey, has figured it out! She sent me an e-mail yesterday proclaiming, "...don't you get it? That's how he's going to rescue the economy!"

She was referring, of course, to president-elect Barack Obama and the much hoped-for, highly-anticipated, almost messianic expectations attached to his presidency, and its effect on the future of the U.S. and its economy.

According to UrbanDictionary.com, "Ka-ching" is the vocal imitation of the sound the old-time manual cash register makes when you ring up a sale.

It might just represent the sound of the trickle up bail out obamapreneur phenomenon inspired by the soon-to-be official president.

What Stacey figured out was that all you have to do is put the image or name of Barack Obama on a product, or tie your existing product or service to the incoming president, and you might just rescue yourself from your own private financial meltdown or the effects of a recessed economy, and hear the sweet ka-ching sound yourself!

The e-mail Stacey sent me had a link to a Web site selling official Obama commemorative dollar gold coin for $9.95. Christmas presents for everyone! *Kaching*!

I quipped that this was evidence of the early stages of Obamanomics and obamapreneurs in action, and that I would launch sites of the same name. I quickly found out, however, that people have already snatched up those domain names. In fact, the fellow who now owns OBAMANOMICS.COM is selling it for $5,000. *Ka-ching!*

The morning after Obama's win, newspapers around the country were forced to reprint tens of thousands of copies to meet the demand of people saving these copies as front-page keepsakes of a moment in history. *Ka-ching!*

Hotels within a hundred miles of Washington, D.C. are charging as much as $1,000 per night—with a five-night minimum stay—for rooms during the week of his scheduled inauguration ceremony on Jan. 20, 2009. *Ka-ching!*

One entrepreneur is selling 2,456 Obama-adorned items, t-shirts, mugs, caps, etc. through cafepress.com. *Ka-ching!*

So, how can *you* capitalize on the Barack wave to sell your creativity? You can, like the folks at minimovie.com, combine break dancing, (b-boyin' for those in the know) with technical expertise and create an ingenious and hilarious "Barack/McCain Dance Off" video that might just get people thinking, "*How'd they do that?* and hire you to do something similar. *Ka-ching*! [*Search for Obama dance-off" on Youtube.com*]

The Barack Effect

Now then, if *you* are having a challenging time predicting what the profitable trends will be with Obama as president (it's all so new and different), here are some tips to help your brainstorming.

First, understand that America has never seen such an international outpouring of support and well-wishes for one of its presidents. What do you think that means? What does it tell you about how the world regards this man? What does it say about America's reputation abroad? What opportunities might this spell for business owners around the world?

Anything associated with Obama's history, upbringing, parents, education, etc., will provide clues as to what may gain in popularity. On that note, you can scan the Internet for his life story, or pick up a copy of *The American Journey of Barack Obama* on Amazon.com. It's a great book that—oh, oops, yes...Ka-*ching*!—as I was saying: a great book that shows his family tree, and traces his entire childhood and adult journey. It's just full of associations to people and places that might spark a business idea.

Just the mere fact of Barack's presidential win has and will result in new ways of thinking and acting. Here are some predictions, as well as some actual developments.

With hope in the American dream restored, there will be

See OBAMANOMICS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Team 'Chimerica'

By NIALL FERGUSON
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Future historians, I suspect, will look back on Saturday's anticlimactic G-20 gathering in Washington less as Bretton Woods 2.0 and more as a rerun of the London Economic Conference of 1933. Back then, representatives of 66 nations completely failed to agree on a concerted international response to the Great Depression. The fault lay mainly with the newly elected U.S. president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who vetoed European proposals for currency stabilization.

This time around, it wasn't the newly elected Democrat but the outgoing Republican who wielded the veto. Even before his counterparts reached Washington, President Bush made it clear that recent events had done nothing to diminish his faith in free markets and minimalist regulation. Over the weekend, it was the United States that resisted European calls for a new international regulatory body, opposed significant redefinition of the International Monetary Fund's role and showed no interest in the idea of a global stimulus package.

A real opportunity has been missed. Just as happened in the 1930s, what began as an American banking panic has now escalated into a global economic crisis. And just as happened in the 1930s, a lack of international coordination has the potential to turn a recession into a deep and protracted depression.

The problem that seems scarcely to have been discussed over the weekend is that each national government is currently responding to the crisis with its own monetary and fiscal measures. Some central banks have already slashed official rates to close to zero. Some treasuries have already launched multibillion-dollar bailouts and stimulus packages. The devil lies in the different timing and magnitudes of these measures. The absence of coordination makes it almost inevitable that we will see rising volatility in global foreign exchange and bond markets, as investors react to each fresh national initiative. The results could be nearly as disruptive as the protectionist measures adopted by national governments during the Depression. Now, as then, a policy of "every man for himself" would be lethal.

At the heart of this crisis is the huge imbalance between the United States, with its current account deficit in excess of 1 percent of world gross domestic product, and the surplus countries that finance it: the oil exporters, Japan and emerging Asia. Of these, the relationship between China and America has become the crucial one. More than anything else, it has been China's strategy of dollar reserve accumulation that has financed America's debt habit. Chinese savings were a key reason U.S. long-term interest rates stayed low and the borrowing binge kept going. Now that the age of leverage is over, "Chimerica"—the partnership between the big saver and the big spender—is key.

In essence, we need the Chinese to be supportive of U.S. monetary easing and fiscal stimulus by doing more of the same themselves. There needs to be agreement on a gradual reduction of the Chimerican imbalance via increased U.S. exports and increased Chinese imports. The alternative—a sudden reduction of the imbalance via lower U.S. imports and lower Chinese exports—would be horrible.

There also needs to be an agreement to avoid a rout in the dollar market and the bond market, which is what will happen if the Chinese stop buying U.S. government bonds, the amount of which is now set to increase massively.

The alternative to such a Chimerican deal is for the Chinese to turn inward, devoting their energies to "market socialism in one country," increasing the domestic consumption of Chinese products and turning away from trade as the engine of growth.

Memo to President-elect Barack Obama: Don't wait until April for the next G-20 summit. Call a meeting of the Chimerican G-2 for the day after your inaugural. Don't wait for China to call its own meeting of a new "G-1" in Beijing.

Niall Ferguson, a professor of history at Harvard University, is the author most recently of The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World.

Letters to the Editor

An open letter to animal owners on Saipan

So here I am sitting in the Honolulu airport, getting ready to leave for Saipan. Honolulu was the site of my most recent continuing education seminar. Veterinarians are required to get 15 hours/year of CE (Continuing Education), to stay current on recent medical advances. I was amazed to find that last year I logged 81 hours of CE. This year I managed 35 hours. This postgraduate education is expensive, but well worth the effort.

I made a commitment to myself (and to my patients on Saipan) to relieve pain, suffering and disease. This is not possible without constant reading, instruction, and association with those that know more than I about this continually evolving profession. This is a commitment that I have gladly made and gladly kept.

Many of the diseases that we treat with little concern today used to be untreatable just a few years ago. I am continually learning new approaches, new medications, new surgical procedures that ensure a long, happy, life for my patients.

I love my profession and the part I play in making the world a better place.

God, in his infinite mercy, foresaw the need for a trusted and non-questioning companion to fill the deep void in the human soul. This void cannot be filled by human contact alone. This is why He blessed us with the human-animal bond.

My dogs and cats don't question me in any way, shape or form. They are happy to see me regardless of where I've been or what I've done, and they never question my motives, even when I do something that is unfavorable to them.

Their love for me, and my family is 100 percent non-judgmental, and unconditional. They have accepted my shortcomings, and deficiencies without feeling the need to give any "constructive" criticism. Their love and acceptance has helped me to develop into the kind of person that I have always wanted to become.

They watch the house at night and when I'm gone so that my own kind (humans) don't hurt me or take advantage of my absence to relieve me of my possessions. I sleep soundly thanks to my pets. I sleep soundly when I'm off island and Susan is home alone, thanks to my pets. They are truly a salve to my soul, and continually add to my peace of mind and sense of well being.

In short they give me the 3 A's (Acceptance, Approval, and Appreciation) that all humans want and need to feel complete within themselves. They demand nothing in return.

It seems to me that the least I can do is to give them the care that I should want to give to such a valued companion. If not I am a thief by taking something that is given freely and then refusing to return the favor, even to the point of illness and death.

Some people know what I'm talking about, and some, sadly, don't.

It has been my privilege for 30 years to care for the animals of this world. It has been my privilege for the last seven years to care for the animals of the CNMI.

I hope to continue in this role for the next 20 years…at least!

Just thought you'd like to know.

Ed Tudor, DVM
via e-mail

Plight of labor and immigration employees

To: Melvin Grey, Director
Department of Immigration

It is sad to hear that majority of local government employees who have vested years in our labor and immigration system now face a complete phase out of their employment with our government. We are optimistic, though, that Gov. Benigno Fitial will have a place of employment for these individuals that best fit their qualifications and job experiences in his administration.

We are, however, dismayed that you continue to publicly state that the federal government is uncooperative with your request concerning the plight of these government employees. We would like to point out to you that the federal government is a defendant in the current lawsuit filed by Governor Fitial, and this has had a tremendous impact on the current issue of not being able to get a response from any of the federal agencies. Common sense should tell you that such a lawsuit is reason enough for them not to respond at all. If you recall, one of the administration's task force members, Marian Aldan-Pierce, was earlier not allowed to attend a meeting in Washington D.C. concerning the visa program. This in itself is evidence and proof enough that there really is a defendant and plaintiff in the matter.

We seriously hope the Executive Branch, the plaintiff in the lawsuit against the federal Department of Homeland Security, absorbs and protects the jobs of all local labor and immigration employees for their future and the well-being of their families and children.

It is unfortunate that Governor Fitial has opted to handle the situation in this manner, which we believe is a losing battle and costly to the CNMI taxpayers and to the current plight of the existing local labor and immigration government employees.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

OBAMANOMICS

From Page 10

an increase in the numbers of people in the U.S. applying for citizenship.

There will be increased interest among the youth, and within disenfranchised communities in the electoral process, and the inner machinations of government.

Americans' perception and reception overseas will improve; tourism of U.S. citizens traveling abroad will likely increase.

There are also international opportunities already being exploited.

According to Kenyan Tourism Minister Najib Balala, *"We are now contemplating opening the 'Obama Route' that will start from Nairobi through the Great Rift Valley and Lake Victoria, leading to Kogelo village thus giving clients the chance to visit Obama's father's birthplace." Ka-ching!*

The Caribbean island of Antigua-Barbuda has officially renamed its highest mountain peak "Mount Obama." Can you say "press opportunity for local tourism" folks? *Ka-ching!*

The city of Obama, Japan has received more than its fair share of media attention as a result of sharing a name with the future president. According to inventorspot.com, site which may help with ideas on capitalizing on trends: *"The latest manifestation of Obama-boosting comes courtesy of the so-called "Obama Girls", a troupe of hula dancers from Obama, Japan who have journeyed to Hawaii (where Obama was born and raise) to compete in a dance contest." Ka-ching!*

Go!

All this humor/parody, t-shirts, dolls, books, videos, travel, tourism, information, music, and profit potential by name association are just the tip of the entrepreneurial iceberg. So don't miss out. Get your thinking caps on and the creative juices flowing. And, remember, it's never too early to start thinking about business ideas. Who do you think will be running again in 2012? Ka-ching!

■■■

Note: *Predictions for Fun and Profit Update:*

And, while we're on the topic of seeing the future, as you may recall, I made a few predictions a few weeks ago. *[See "What Happens Next?" published Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008]*

Prediction #1 has come true: Barack Obama was elected president.

Prediction #2 (Marine monument) will be tested soon!

Prediction #3: Fate of U.S. carmakers.

If all goes well, I'll have launched my new career as a fortune-teller. Stay tuned. J

■■■

Note: The African American Cultural Preservation Committee is calling for entries for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Essay and Elocution Contest. The topic this year is "What Would Martin Say?" All students in the CNMI are invited. See the www.blacksonsaipan.com website for details. Fliers are being distributed to the schools this week.

Note*: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

■■■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books, including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the U.S., and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°

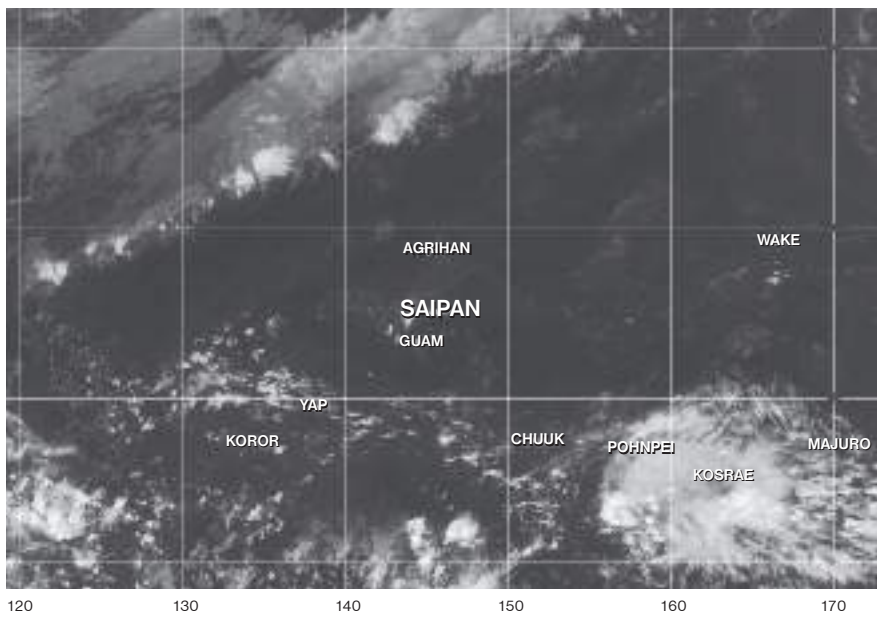
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲83	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲62	▼55
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼25
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲79	▼64
Honolulu	Showers	▲79	▼70
London	Cloudy	▲55	▼45
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲74	▼54
Manila	Showers	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲71	▼66
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲71	▼55
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲40	▼32
Osaka	Cloudy	▲43	▼35
Paris	Showers	▲53	▼42
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲45	▼31
Rome	Sunny	▲59	▼37
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲57	▼45
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲64	▼51
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲31	▼18
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲63	▼48
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲43	▼32

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N135E to beyond 130E at 21N. Extensive cloud-cover and scattered showers extend 500 miles northwest of a line from 20N130E to 25N144E. A surface trough extends southward from 12N138E to eq137E. Convergence near and east of the trough is triggering widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in an area bounded by a line from 13N131E to 7N149E to 6N136E to 9N131E back to 13N131E. This area includes both Palau and Yap and is just west of Chuuk. A trade-wind disturbance is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from Pohnpei eastward across Kosrae and the eastern Marshall Islands in an area from 9N164E to 5N171E to EQ159E to 7N157E back to 9N164E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Majuro within 60 miles of a line from 5N174E eastward past 5N180E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:17AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
1:53PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:36PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
11:42PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:21AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:21AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:22AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:22AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:23AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:50PM	11:56AM
Thursday		12:38PM
Friday	12:44AM	1:17PM
Saturday	1:35AM	1:54PM
Sunday	2:25AM	2:30PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 19, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily

Saipan-Incheon

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:25am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:15am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Incheon-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:40am+1	3,4,6,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

DeWitt , Adachi, and Arda are tops at KES

Mendiola, Cabrera, Benavente shine at PSS Central

The Public School System Central Office is proud to present our nominees for the 2009 education excellence awards. With a system that caters to 1,100 staff, we are truly honored of the nominees' dedication, commitment, and success in providing quality services to our clients.

Annie Mendiola of the Human Resources Office was selected the overall winner that will represent Central Office in the state competition. When asked how she feels of being the Support Staff for PSS Central Office, Mrs. Mendiola said, "I am happy and proud I was given the honor for being the overall Central Office's Support Staff of the Year. My family is so proud of me. I have been working for PSS for a long time but I will not get tired of assisting people who are in need of my help". Other nominees include Jeremiah Benavente of the Erate Program and Probio Cabrera of the Office of the Curriculum and Instruction.

Annie Regis-Mendiola started working for PSS on December 12, 1994. She was chosen as the overall winner of the Central Office because of the recommendation she received from various program managers and colleagues. One of the recommendation states that "Annie exudes a sense of pride and loyalty that I find infectious. Her positive attitude raises a productive work environment to those around her and those who use the human resources department. When having a stressful or bad day, the sight of Annie will always perk me up." Another person recommends that Annie must be chosen as 2009 state Support Staff because "Annie is proactive, responsive, the best". Her supervisor said " Mrs. Mendiola could very well be considered the "glue" that holds the PSS Human Resources Department together".

Mendiola

Cabrera

Benavente

Other nominee is Jeremiah Benavente who started working for PSS on August 17, 2006 at the ERate program. His recommendation letter states, "Mr. Benavente is a hard-working person; He takes the initiative to assist everyone with the network and computer problems to get everyone back on track with our daily operation". Other recommendation states that " Jeremiah performs his daily tasks with minimal supervision. He has demonstrated his work skills and ethics beyond expectation".

Probio Cabrera started working for PSS on December 3, 1991. He is now working at the Curriculum and Instruction and was nominated for "he is a hardworking individual committed to his work. With the shortage of staff at the CIA office, he is always willing and ready to extend a helping hand to every program needing his assistance."

Dewitt

LOIS DEWITT
Teacher of the Year

Lois Dewitt is an outstanding teacher at Koblerville Elementary School. She is our 1st grade teacher. She is dynamic and very energetic. Her students love her. Mrs. DeWitt is also a teacher leader. She is actively involved in PSS Language Arts Learning Community. She conducts professional developments for teachers on research based teaching strategies that they can apply in the classrooms. She is also a teacher mentor. She helps teachers with their needs in the classroom and provides support for the novice teachers. She organizes PeaceBuilders activities monthly as our PeaceBuilders coordinator. She promotes the spirit of teamwork, discipline, and healthy living by beinag active in school sports program. Mrs. DeWitt is truly amazing! Koblerville Elementary School is very proud of her!

KEVIN ADACHI
Teacher Aide of the Year

Kevin Adachi is our Kindergarten teacher aide of the year. He is a teacher aide at our school for six years. Everybody in our school loves Mr. Kevin. He is enthusiastic, hardworking, and a dynamic teacher aide. He likes to offer his help to all our teachers and staff. He is also very creative. He teaches our students cultural dances and songs. He also teaches our students many forms of arts. He loves being with children. Mr. Adachi is also actively involved in promoting good health at our school by being a member and a presenter of our Project Familia program. He is also our co-coordinator of PeaceBuilders. Congratulations Mr. Adachi! You deserve to be out Teacher Aide of the Year and we are proud of you!

Adachi

NORMAN ARDA
Support Staff of the Year

Norman Arda is presently the school maintenance at Koblerville Elementary School. He has been working at the school for four consecutive years now. As school maintenance, he accomplishes many tasks, which include electrical, air conditioning, and mechanical. He also takes other responsibility such as maintaining the school's lawn, buildings, and ground. Mr. Arda works really hard for the safety of our students. His positive attitude and his willingness to do the tasks given him, and his contribution to the school and to our community make him the Support Staff of the Year for our school.. Congratulations Mr. Arda!

Ada

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB09-CGC-020

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 10, 2008 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TWO (2) OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ**
Secretary of Health

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-COURTS-014

SUBMISSION: DECEMBER 19, 2008 • TIME: 10:00 AM

"JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR THE GUMA HUSTISIA/ IIMWAL AWEEWEE/HOUSE OF JUSTICE"

THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE SUPREME COURT, CLERK OF COURT, AT THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE GUMA HUSTISIA/IIMWAL AWEEWEE/HOUSE OF JUSTICE IN SUSUPE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 05, 2008, LOCAL TIME, 10:30 A.M., AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA CONFERENCE ROOM. ANY QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES SHALL BE DIRECTED TO MS. TRACY M. GUERRERO, DIRECTOR OF COURTS AT (670) 236-9800 OR BY FAX TO (670) 236-9702 NO LATER THAN **DECEMBER 10, 2008**, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **MIGUEL S. DEMAPAN**
Chief Justice

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
STADT HAMBURG	025E	11/8 Sat	11/6 Thu	11/6 Thu	11/4 Tue	11/1 Sat	11/14 Fri	11/10 Mon	11/9 Sun	11/2 Sun	11/2 Sun	11/10 Mon	11/14 Fri	11/15 Sat	11/18 Tue
MELL SENOKO	013E	11/15 Sat	11/13 Thu	11/13 Thu	11/11 Tue	11/8 Sat	11/21 Fri	11/17 Mon	11/16 Sun	11/9 Sun	11/9 Sun	11/17 Mon	11/21 Fri	11/22 Sat	11/25 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	018E	11/22 Sat	11/20 Thu	11/20 Thu	11/18 Tue	11/15 Sat	11/28 Fri	11/24 Mon	11/23 Sun	11/16 Sun	11/16 Sun	11/24 Mon	11/28 Fri	11/29 Sat	12/2 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	026E	11/29 Sat	11/27 Thu	11/27 Thu	11/25 Tue	11/22 Sat	12/5 Fri	12/1 Mon	11/30 Sun	11/23 Sun	11/23 Sun	12/1 Mon	12/5 Fri	12/6 Sat	12/9 Tue
MELL SENOKO	014E	12/6 Sat	12/4 Thu	12/4 Thu	12/2 Tue	11/29 Sat	12/12 Fri	12/8 Mon	12/7 Sun	11/30 Sun	11/30 Sun	12/8 Mon	12/12 Fri	12/13 Sat	12/16 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	019E	12/13 Sat	12/11 Thu	12/11 Thu	12/9 Tue	12/6 Sat	12/19 Fri	12/15 Mon	12/14 Sun	12/7 Sun	12/7 Sun	12/15 Mon	12/19 Fri	12/20 Sat	12/23 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
STADT HAMBURG	025E	11/22 Sat	11/23 Sun	11/23 Sun	11/25 Tue	11/27 Thu	11/28 Fri	11/29 Sat	12/2 Tue	12/5 Fri	12/6 Sat	12/11 Thu	12/30 Tue	12/28 Sun	12/10 Wed
MELL SENOKO	013E	11/29 Sat	11/30 Sun	11/30 Sun	SKIP	12/4 Thu	12/5 Fri	12/6 Sat	12/9 Tue	12/12 Fri	12/13 Sat	12/18 Thu	1/6 Tue	1/4 Sun	12/17 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	018E	12/6 Sat	12/7 Sun	12/7 Sun	12/9 Tue	12/11 Thu	12/12 Fri	12/13 Sat	12/16 Tue	12/19 Fri	12/20 Sat	12/25 Thu	1/13 Tue	1/11 Sun	12/24 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	026E	12/13 Sat	12/14 Sun	12/14 Sun	SKIP	12/18 Thu	12/19 Fri	12/20 Sat	12/23 Tue	12/26 Fri	12/27 Sat	1/1 Thu	1/20 Tue	1/18 Sun	12/31 Wed
MELL SENOKO	014E	12/20 Sat	12/21 Sun	12/21 Sun	12/23 Tue	12/25 Thu	12/26 Fri	12/27 Sat	12/30 Tue	1/2 Fri	1/3 Sat	1/8 Thu	1/27 Tue	1/25 Sun	1/7 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	019E	12/27 Sat	12/28 Sun	12/28 Sun	12/30 Tue	1/1 Thu	1/2 Fri	1/3 Sat	1/6 Tue	1/9 Fri	1/10 Sat	1/15 Thu	2/3 Tue	2/1 Sun	1/14 Wed

Weekly service. More frequent. More dependable.

Website: www.mariana-express.com

Exclusive General Agent of MELL

For bookings, you may call our Saipan agent:

CTSI LOGISTICS,
CTSI Building, Lower Base,
P.O. Box 501937,
Saipan MP 96950
Website: www.ctsi-logistics.com

Edgar T. Garcia
Inbound
Direct line (670) 236-2422

Jaime P. Salazar
Outbound
Direct line (670) 236-2410

Robert Reyes
Sales and Marketing
Direct line (670) 236-2403

CTSI Logistics
Moving the world

Business

Dias

Duncan

Kendell

Wedding

Continental realigns Asia-Pacific sales and marketing leadership

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Continental Airlines announced last week the realignment of the company's sales and marketing leadership in the Asia-Pacific region. The realignment follows the airline's announcement this past June that it plans to exit from SkyTeam and to join the Star Alliance while developing joint ventures across the Atlantic, Pacific, and Latin regions, which will be overseen by Mark Erwin, Senior Vice President-Corporate Development and Alliances.

Erwin will be focusing his energies on the alliance transition, a critical project for Continental and a first in the industry. Walter Dias, previously Staff Vice President of Sales and Marketing-Guam and Micronesia, has been appointed to the newly created position of Managing Director of Greater China and Southeast Asia for Continental Airlines. Dias will be based out of Hong Kong and will oversee sales and marketing activities in Hong Kong, Beijing, and Shanghai, where Continental Airlines is scheduled to launch new flight services to New York in March 2009.

"It has been a sincere pleasure for me to have made Guam my home for the past 15 years," stated Dias. "The people have been fantastic and I even gained a beautiful family here on the island. I am proud to have been part of Continental's tireless efforts to promote our beautiful island to people around the world and will continue to do so in my new position.

China is a vibrant country and represents a great opportunity for Guam to increase the number of visitors to the island in the coming years."

The realignment also includes the promotion of Charles Duncan to Managing Director of Asia/Pacific for Continental Airlines. He was previously Managing Director of Japan at Continental Airlines. Duncan will remain in Tokyo, and in his new role he will be responsible for overseeing sales and marketing activities across the Asia-Pacific region including China, Guam, Honolulu, and Japan.

Continental Airlines

David Kendell will remain in Guam as Sales and Marketing Director for Guam and Micronesia. He will oversee sales and marketing activities for the Micronesia region, including Cairns, Guam and Saipan, Honolulu, Palau, the Micronesian islands, and Manila.

Also remaining in Guam is Jay Wedding, Chief Operating Officer for Continental Micronesia. Wedding is responsible for all aspects of the Continental operation in Asia- Pacific including in-flight, maintenance, and airports.

In Japan, Toru Takahashi, Director of Sales, will focus on all activities in Tokyo as well as Osaka, Charters, and Marketing. Mitsunori Takahashi will continue as Senior Manager and will oversee sales activities in the seven regional cities served by Continental Airlines, including Sapporo, Sendai, Niigata, Nagoya, Okayama, Hiroshima, and Fukuoka. Continental remains committed to maintaining its leadership position in the Japan-Micronesia market.

These four people—Dias, Kendell, Toru Takahashi, and Mitsunori Takahashi—will report directly to Duncan.

David Hilfman, Senior Vice President Worldwide Sales commented, "I am very excited about this team. The time is right to put a senior leader in China. Our business has grown since 2001 to three daily nonstop flights to New York. In addition, following on our first-ever charter flight from Shanghai to Guam in February, nobody is better suited than Wally to develop this new market for Guam."

"With Charles, and the other members of his team David, and Toru and Mitsunori Takahashi we have a talented group with deep experience in the region, who will be focused on our customers and business partners," said Hilfman. ***(PR)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Yahoo to replace Yang as CEO, ending rocky reign

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yahoo Inc. co-founder Jerry Yang is stepping down as chief executive, ending a rocky reign marked by his refusal to sell the Internet company to Microsoft Corp. for $47.5 billion—more than triple Yahoo's current market value. The change in command announced Monday won't be completed until Yahoo finds his replacement. The Sunnyvale-based company said it is interviewing candidates inside and outside Yahoo in a search led by its chairman, Roy Bostock, and the executive recruitment firm Heidrick & Struggles. "Jerry and the board have had an ongoing dialogue about succession timing, and we all agree that now is the right time to make the transition to a new CEO who can take the company to the next level," Bostock said. Yang, who started Yahoo with Stanford University classmate David Filo in 1994, will revert to "Chief Yahoo," a titular role he filled before replacing former movie studio boss Terry Semel as CEO in June 2007. He will also remain on Yahoo's board of directors.

Citigroup plans a leaner future, cuts 53,000 jobs

NEW YORK (AP)—Citigroup, widely seen as the sickest Wall Street bank, will make some of the most severe cuts in the history of U.S. business—53,000 jobs—as it tries to slash costs and get back to basics before it's too late. The cuts, which will leave Citi about 20 percent smaller, are the latest step in a stunning remaking of the American banking landscape since the financial meltdown, an upheaval that has included the demise of storied investment houses and the conversion of others into commercial banks. Citigroup CEO Vikram Pandit met with employees Monday and laid out the bank's strategy in stark terms: "We are a bank. What does a bank do? A bank takes deposits and puts them to work by investing and making loans." Challenger, Gray & Christmas Inc., which has tracked downsizing since 1993, said Citi's cuts are the second-most on record. IBM announced in July it was cutting 60,000.

Nation

Obama, McCain bury hatchet

CHICAGO (AP)—No longer foes but not yet allies, President-elect Barack Obama and John McCain buried their bitter campaign in public smiles and searched for common ground in private on Monday, discussing possible collaboration on climate change, immigration, Guantanamo Bay and more.

The 40-minute session at Obama's transition headquarters, their first meeting since Nov. 4 when Obama handily defeated McCain, was just the latest effort by the president-elect to heal wounds from the long and bitter campaign and seek help from his former rivals. On Friday, he quietly met here with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, his toughest rival for the Democratic nomination and now a possible choice for secretary of state.

McCain's meeting with Obama was less furtive, and aides to both men said no Cabinet post is envisioned for the Arizona senator. Obama has said he plans to invite at least one Republican to join his Cabinet.

Like Clinton, McCain knows that returning to the 100-member Senate will impose limits and frustrations after the heady two years of the presidential campaign. For both, a friendly relationship with the new president might open new opportunities in Congress or elsewhere, though they exchanged harsh words with him not long ago.

For Obama, cordial ties to two of the nation's most famous and successful politicians might smooth the launch of an administration confronting an economic crisis and two wars.

Before Monday's meeting, Obama said he and McCain would talk about "how we can do some work together to fix up the country." He thanked McCain "for the outstanding service he's already rendered."

In a joint statement after the meeting, they vowed to work together to reform government and promote bipartisanship in Washington.

Meanwhile, Clinton, who returns to Congress as a fairly junior senator with no immediate prospects for a leadership post, appeared very much in the running for secretary of state. Transition officials said she and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, were cooperating with a vetting process, although there were other contenders for the job.

Bill Clinton's finances and business relationships could pose a conflict of interest for his wife if she became the nation's top diplomat. Since leaving the White House in 2001, he has amassed a multimillion-dollar fortune and built a large international foundation through his ties to corporations and foreign governments.

AP

President-elect Barack Obama and Sen John McCain, R-Ariz. smile during their meeting at Obama's transition office in downtown Chicago, Monday, Nov. 17, 2008.

Obama advisers: No charges likely vs interrogators

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama's incoming administration is unlikely to bring criminal charges against government officials who authorized or engaged in harsh interrogations of suspected terrorists during the George W. Bush presidency. Obama, who has criticized the use of torture, is being urged by some constitutional scholars and human rights groups to investigate possible war crimes by the Bush administration.

Two Obama advisers said there's little—if any—chance that the incoming president's Justice Department will go after anyone involved in authorizing or carrying out interrogations that provoked worldwide outrage.

The advisers spoke on condition of anonymity because the plans are still tentative. A spokesman for Obama's transition team did not respond to requests for comment Monday.

Additionally, the question of whether to prosecute may never become an issue if Bush issues pre-emptive pardons to protect those involved.

Obama has committed to reviewing interrogations on al-Qaida and other terror suspects. After he takes office in January, Obama is expected to create a panel modeled after the 9/11 Commission to study interrogations, including those using waterboarding and other tactics that critics call torture. The panel's findings would be used to ensure that future interrogations are undisputedly legal.

McCain backer Lieberman may keep committee chair

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Joe Lieberman appears increasingly likely to hold onto his prized chairmanship of the Senate Homeland Security Committee as he meets Tuesday with Democratic colleagues unhappy over his vocal support for GOP nominee John McCain during this year's presidential campaign.

Not long ago, Lieberman's hold on his chairmanship seemed to be slipping as Democrats sought to punish him for boosting McCain and criticizing President-elect Barack Obama during the long campaign.

Now, according to several Democratic aides who demanded anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, it appears that Lieberman will receive a lesser sanction, such as losing a subcommittee chairmanship on the Environment and Public Works Committee.

Anger toward Lieberman seems to have softened since Election Day and there's strengthening sentiment that taking away his chairmanship might drive him from the Democratic caucus and send the wrong signals as Obama takes office on a pledge to unite the country. Lieberman has signaled it would be unacceptable for him to lose his chairmanship.

Residents return to devastated LA Oakridge mobile home park

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Stacks of charred bricks, blackened shells of cars and burned tree trunks were all that remained Monday in much of the community some residents once called the "Beverly Hills of mobile home parks."

The mostly retired residents returned to see what was left of their homes at Oakridge Mobile Home Park, where winds with hurricane intensity blew a wall of fire through hundreds of manufactured homes and set them ablaze so quickly that even firefighters had to drop their hoses and run.

"It looks like a war zone - no trees, no buildings," said Michele Warneck, 54, who burst into tears after returning from the park. She had watched her two-bedroom house burn on the television news. "Everything that was porcelain just blew up."

Once considered a paradise with swimming pools and tennis courts, the park was now roamed by cadaver-sniffing dogs in search of anyone who didn't escape. That search ended Monday afternoon with investigators finding no evidence anyone perished. The inferno destroyed 484 homes in the park Saturday. Firefighters were able to save about 120 homes, but many were badly damaged and the park is flattened except for charred trees with blackened branches bent in one direction by the hot winds. Twisted metal foundations and pipes are all that is left of many homes.

The fire was one of three in Southern California that have destroyed about 1,000 homes and apartments and burned 41,000 acres, or 64 square miles, forcing thousands to flee.

Most evacuation orders were lifted by Monday, when clear skies and calm winds allowed firefighters to make some gains, but officials warned of another bad air day and classes were canceled at dozens of schools near fire zones in Orange County.

In Sylmar, scores of residents stood in line outside a high school gymnasium for tours of the charred mobile home park where retirees once played tennis, took a dip in a jacuzzi and played Mah-Johng and poker.

Those whose homes were destroyed were shuttled through the neighborhood in a black van. Authorities were still investigating the fire, so people weren't allowed to get out and sift through the ashes for scraps of their belongings.

"It's gone," said Ed Hurdle, 82, after taking one of the first park tours. "The car is gone. The house is gone. It's twisted metal. It's totally charred there. There's no hope at all. Nothing. Nothing. Nothing."

A separate set of white police vans ferried residents whose homes were still standing so they could gather medication and other essentials.

"My house was in great shape. All it was was dirty," said Betty Glassman, 78. "I feel like I'm in a dream. Pinch me."

Cadaver dogs searched the burned units, but found only the cremated remains of a man who died several years ago.

Animal control recovered several dead animals and three live cats. Los Angeles County Assistant Coroner Chief Ed Winter said the cats could have been hiding under one of the units that wasn't damaged.

Neighbors huddled together inside the gymnasium, which has been turned into a Red Cross shelter for evacuees, hugging each other and comparing notes about what they saw and what they were able to salvage.

ACROSS THE NATION

Astronauts hitch giant crate to space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Astronauts hitched a giant shipping crate full of home improvement "goodies" to the international space station on Monday, a critical step for boosting the population in orbit. It was the first major job for the crews of the linked space station and space shuttle Endeavour, and highlighted their first full day together. "We're here to work," the space station's skipper, Mike Fincke, called down. "This is the can-do crew." More than 14,000 pounds of gear was stuffed into the 21-foot container that flew up on Endeavour and was hoisted onto the space station. It held an extra toilet, refrigerator and kitchenette, exercise machine and sleeping compartments, and a new recycling system for converting urine into drinking water. Fincke called it "the goodies ... things needed for an extreme home makeover."

Calif. high court asked to hear gay marriage cases

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The state attorney general and sponsors of the ballot initiative that banned same-sex marriage in California urged its Supreme Court to hear a series of lawsuits seeking to overturn the ban, saying the matter is too urgent to be unsettled. "The petitions raise issues of statewide importance, implicating not only California's marriage laws but also the initiative process and the Constitution itself," Attorney General Jerry Brown argued in his filing. "This court can provide certainty and finality in this matter," he said. Proposition 8, which passed with 52 percent of the vote earlier this month, overturned the high court's May decision legalizing gay marriage in California. The measure inserts language into the constitution limiting marriage to one man and one woman. Gay and civil rights groups, the city of San Francisco and other plaintiffs have asked the court to void the measure on the grounds that voters did not have the authority to make, what they say, is a fundamental constitutional change.

Wis. woman pleads no contest in corpse case

MAUSTON, Wis. (AP)—A member of a religious sect pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor Monday after being accused of leaving another member's corpse in her bathroom so the group could collect her Social Security checks. Tammy Lewis, 36, was fined $350 for obstructing an officer, while prosecution was deferred on the more serious charges against her. She'll receive mental health treatment and testify against sect leader Alan Bushey at his trial in April, District Attorney Scott Southworth said. Prosecutors accuse Lewis and Bushey of leaving 90-year-old Magdeline Middlesworth's body on the toilet in Lewis' home after she died there in March. A criminal complaint says Bushey led the Order of the Divine Will sect and told Lewis that God would revive Middlesworth. The decaying body was found in May after Middlesworth's family expressed concern.

Texas officials say layover mystery a homicide

DALLAS (AP)—A mysterious disappearance of an Alzheimer's patient during a layover at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport seven years ago became a homicide case Monday after an examination of skeletal remains found miles from the airfield. The Tarrant County medical examiner used DNA tests to identify the remains as 70-year-old Marjorie Dabney and ruled that her death was caused by a blow to the head, police said. The remains were found last year near Lewisville Lake, about 15 miles north of the airport. Last month, Dabney's clothing and business cards were found near the lake. "I'm still shocked," Dabney's daughter, Candice Price, 38, of Indianapolis, told The Associated Press on Monday. She said that in the years after her mother went missing, she convinced herself that someone had found her mother and was caring for her. Her mother was diabetic and an Alzheimer's patient. "To get this, that somebody hit her upside the head—you can't prepare yourself for this," Price said. "I'm furious because I'm hearing that someone has killed my mother. I want to know why. I want to know when."

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTISIA POT PRINIPONEN ATKILONTANO PUBLIKO

Segun gi lai 15-2, I Depattamenton Tano, segun i LaiPubliko 15-2, ha anununsia planon atkilon tano publiko giya Tinian, Commonwealth i Sankattan siha na Islas. Todo man-interesao libre munahalom opinion `sino infotmasion pot i mapropopone na planonuson tano publiko. Maprebeniye lokue isigiente siha na infotmasion para benefision publiko tat komo:

1. I tineteka na tano publiko inembrarasa 300 hegtarias. Trabiha ti mamimide este na lugat lao i uminteres umadelanta este na tano publiko pot para u hatsaye casino hotel yan primera na golf course giya Piña, Tinian.. Kopian lugat este na sitiu gaige gi Depattamenton Tano ni libre maina nu i publiku.
2. I para u inatkilai era i Neo Goldwings Paradise, un kotporasion guine giya Marianas. I membron direktot siha i sigiente: Hyun Myung In, presidente/tresurario yan Kwidong Woo, segundo presidente yan sekretario.
3. I mapropopone na atkilon tano publiko manegosio as Señor Kwidong Woo.
4. I para u atkila i lugat para u usa gimahatsan fasilidat hotel casino, golf course yan otro siha na fasilidat.

   I tetminonestena kontrata para 25 años ya siña ma-ekstende talo 15 años.
5. Libre hao mamaisen kopianestena plano gi Depattamenton Tano ni gaige gi segundo bibienda gi Joeten Dandan, Saipan; offisinanTano Publiko giya Luta yan Tinian.
6. I Depattamenton Tano taya otro plano ha resibe gi uson este siha na propiadat publiko giya Piña, Tinian.
7. I Sekretarion Depattamenton Tano Publiko siña ha resibe todo ninahalom opinion yan materiat pot este na proposito uttimo gi Novembre 24, 2008 gi todo Offisinan Tano Publiku giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwlil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Tchúlúyól, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyghiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap ye ebwe elebwughúw toria (300 hectares), iye rebwe tilifischi ghatchúw bwelle investors rebwe ayúúw leliyel casino me golf resort iye e ghil ngáli bwuleyil Pina mewóól Tchúlúyól elapeló me ngáre eghús. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ye Tchúlúyól ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Neo Gold Wings Paradise Saipan Corporation d.b.a. NGP Casino and Hotel. Schóól Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellol corporation nge Myung In Hyun me Kwidong Woo.

   Samwoolul (President/Treasurer) corporation nge Myung In Hyun. Vice President me Sekkretório nge Kwidong Woo.

iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Kwidong Woo.

iv. Schóól akkilon nge ebwe ayúúw me mwóghutáágheli casino mellól hotel me golf resort me akkááw wiisal(fasilidóód).

   Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

   Pomwol akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél faluw (value of the property).

v. Emmwel bwe tilighial akkilon yeel óubwe bwughil mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Piña, Tchúlúyól.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal schagh Nobiembre (November) 24, 2008 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyol.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

The Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent, under Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, to lease certain public lands on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is about 300 hectares that has yet to be surveyed to which investor plans to lease for purposes of building a casino hotel and golf resort situated in the Piña Area on Tinian. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for review.

ii. The prospective lessee is Neo Goldwings Paradise, Co. Ltd. a CNMI corporation. The Board of Directors of the corporation are Hyun Myung In, president/treasurer and Kwidong Woo, vice president/secretary.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Kwidong Woo.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating a casino hotel and golf resort and related facilities.

   The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

   The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land at Piña, Tinian.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before November 24, 2008 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

Asia

Tibetan exiles debate pushing for independence from China

DHARMSALA, India (AP)—The prime minister of Tibet's exiled government said Tuesday that leaders would push for Tibetan independence if a key meeting of exiles this week decides to drop the Dalai Lama's measured path of compromise.

More than 500 Tibetan exile leaders held closed door discussions as part of a weeklong meeting, the first major re-evaluation of their strategy since the Dalai Lama in 1988 outlined his Nobel Peace Prize-winning "middle way," which pushes for autonomy but not outright independence for the Himalayan region.

The Dalai Lama has expressed frustration over years of fruitless talks with China and prominent Tibetan leaders have said the conciliatory approach "has failed."

Samdhong Rinpoche, the exile prime minister, said the "emotionally charged meetings" that began Monday could lead to a dramatic new path for the Tibetan movement.

"If the outcome of the present meeting is we should switch over from the 'middle way' to independence, we will gladly follow that," Rinpoche said Tuesday.

He said any decision made this week would be taken to the exile parliament which will have the final say.

"We are sincerely committed to a genuine democratic system to reflect public opinion," he said.

China insists Tibet has been part of its territory for 700 years, although many Tibetans say they were effectively independent for most of that time. Chinese forces invaded shortly after the 1949 communist revolution and the Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 amid an unsuccessful uprising.

Large numbers of Tibetans remain fervently Buddhist and loyal to the Dalai Lama. If the exiles choose a more confrontational approach, Tibetans living under Chinese rule would bear the brunt of any government response.

Taliban reject Afghan president's offer for talks

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban militants rejected an offer of peace talks with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, saying Monday there would be no negotiations until foreign troops leave Afghanistan.

Karzai

Karzai offered Sunday to provide security for reclusive Taliban leader Mullah Omar if he enters negotiations and said the U.S. and other Western nations could leave Afghanistan or oust him if they disagree.

But Zabiullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, said there could be no talks while foreign troops are in the country.

"The Taliban's (leadership) decided they will not take part in any peace talks with Karzai or Karzai's administration until such a day when foreign forces leave Afghanistan," Mujahid told the Associated Press.

"The Taliban will pursue jihad against foreign forces and (Karzai's) government." he said, speaking from an undisclosed location.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack questioned Karzai's security guarantee.

"One can't imagine the circumstances where you have the senior leadership of the Taliban—that there would be any safe passage with respect to U.S. forces. Certainly, it's hard to imagine those circumstances standing here right now," McCormack said.

The White House also made clear its distaste for the idea of talking with Taliban leaders right now, particularly Omar.

"We support Hamid Karzai. We think that he is a leader that has only the best interests of his country in mind. What we have seen from the Taliban, however, and from Mullah Omar—who we haven't heard from in some time—is an unwillingness to renounce violence," White House press secretary Dana Perino said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Former Taiwanese president extends hunger strike

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Former Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian resumed a hunger strike Tuesday to protest his arrest in a corruption case, after accepting glucose and saline injections to stabilize his deteriorating condition, a doctor said. Also Tuesday, a group of Chen supporters announced a mass protest against his jailing on corruption charges. Chen, 57, has refused solid food since early Wednesday of last week, after a three-judge panel ordered him locked up, while prosecutors pursue bribery and other graft allegations against him. Chen was moved from a suburban Taipei jail late Sunday to a nearby hospital, after doctors observed that he was suffering from an irregular heartbeat. He began the hunger strike to protest what he called the "political persecution" involved in his arrest. Speaking to reporters Tuesday, Dr. Yang Chang-bin said Chen was continuing his hunger strike but that he was not in danger. "(He) still doesn't want to eat," Yang said. "Chen is conscious and his condition has improved."

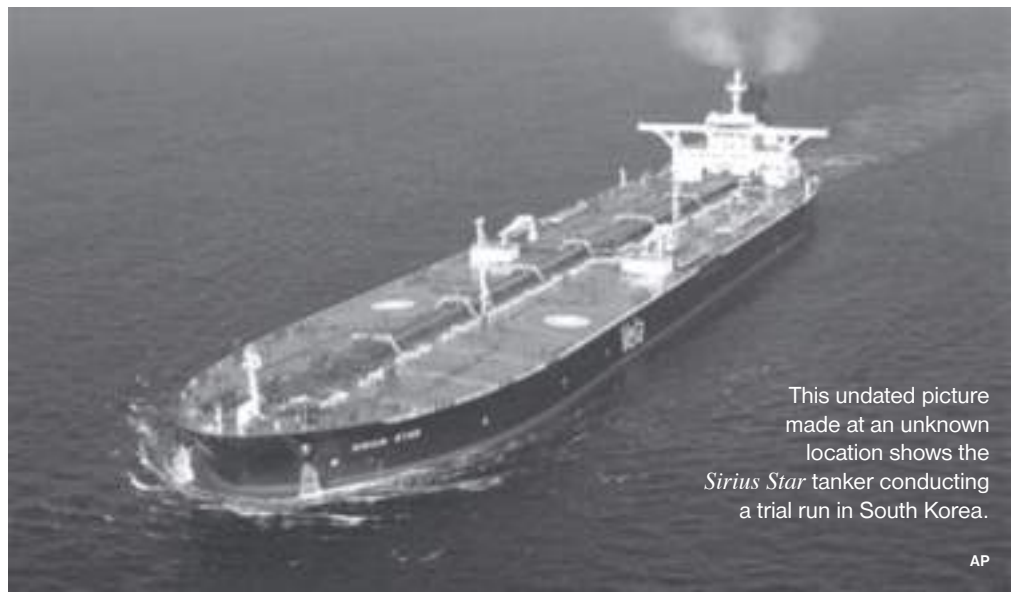
US supply trucks get armed escorts in Pakistan

KHYBER PASS, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan sent troops armed with rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine guns to escort trucks Monday along a major supply route for U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, part of new security measures to combat militant attacks. The paramilitary guards traveled in pickup trucks alongside convoys as they snaked their way up Pakistan's Khyber Pass, an increasingly perilous 30-mile stretch. The response indicated Pakistan was taking seriously the threats to a route critical to Western forces battling Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan. Al-Qaida and Taliban fighters, as well as ordinary criminals, are behind escalating violence in large parts of Pakistan's northwest regions bordering Afghanistan, including the Khyber region. Pakistan stopped container trucks and oil tankers from using the pass last week after dozens of suspected Taliban militants hijacked trucks carrying Humvees bound for the U.S.-led coalition.

Rare blood transfusion attempted on tiger cub

NEW DELHI (AP)—Veterinarians carried out a rare blood transfusion in an attempt to save a 7-month-old wild tiger that had been attacked and beaten by angry villagers in central India. The female cub received the emergency treatment late Sunday after blood taken from captive adults was airlifted to the zoo where the cub is being cared for, said Bimal Majumdar, the chief wildlife officer in the region. He said it was the first time a transfusion had been given to a tiger in India. The cub, which doctors named Juhi after a fragrant white flower native to India, was still in serious condition Monday at the zoo in the city of Nagpur, some 530 miles southeast of New Delhi, he said. India's wild tiger population has plummeted to just some 1,500 - down from about 3,600 six years ago and an estimated 100,000 a century ago. Shrinking habitats have brought them into conflict with farmers and poachers have killed them for their pelts and body parts, which are highly prized in traditional Chinese medicine.

World


This undated picture made at an unknown location shows the *Sirius Star* tanker conducting a trial run in South Korea.

AP

Somali pirates hijack tanker

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—In a dramatic escalation of high seas crime, Somali pirates hijacked a Saudi supertanker loaded with crude hundreds of miles off the coast of East Africa—defeating the security web of warships trying to protect vital shipping lanes.

The takeover demonstrates the bandits' heightened ambitions and capabilities: Never before have they seized such a giant ship so far out to sea. Maritime experts warned the broad daylight attack, reported by the U.S. Navy on Monday, was an alarming sign of the difficulty of patrolling a vast stretch of ocean key to oil and other cargo traffic.

The MV *Sirius Star*, a brand new tanker with a 25-member crew, was seized at about 10 a.m. Saturday more than 450 nautical miles southeast of Mombasa, Kenya, the Navy said. The area lies far south of the zone where warships have increased their patrols this year in the Gulf of Aden, one of the busiest channels in the world, leading to and from the Suez Canal, and the scene of most past attacks.

The massive supertanker would seem to present a daunting target for the pirates, who usually operate in small speedboats. At 1,080 feet, it is the length of an aircraft carrier and can carry about 2 million barrels of oil.

US-Iraq pact poses test for Iraq's security forces

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.S.-Iraqi security pact now before parliament calls for U.S. forces to leave Iraq's cities by June 30 in recognition of an improved security climate, but the deadline poses a key test for Iraqi forces in places like Baghdad and the northern city of Mosul where attacks still occur daily.

It is a gamble that Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, emboldened by recent military successes, is willing to take—partly because of growing confidence in the capabilities of Iraqi forces.

U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker described the security gains as "superlative" at a Monday signing ceremony of the agreement with Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari.

WORLD BRIEFS

Suspected ETA commando leader arrested in France

MADRID, Spain (AP)—French and Spanish police arrested the reputed leader of ETA's commando units on Monday—dealing a devastating blow to the armed Basque separatist group. Mikel de Garikoitz Aspiazu Rubina, 35, is suspected of taking part in several killings, including the December shooting deaths of two Spanish guardsmen in France, according to French and Spanish officials. Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said Aspiazu Rubina—known by the alias "Txeroki" (pronounced cher-OH-kee)—has been the operational chief of ETA's hit squads and bombing units for several years. "With this arrest, ETA has suffered a severe blow in its organization and capability. Today, ETA is weaker," Zapatero said. Aspiazu Rubina was being held in France, but he was expected to be handed over to Spanish authorities soon.

Officials: Israeli mob boss killed in car bombing

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—A bomb exploded in a car carrying one of Israel's top mafia kingpins on Monday, killing him and threatening to unleash an all-out war in Israel's increasingly violent underworld. Israeli police officials identified the dead man as Yaakov Alperon—known informally as "Don Alperon"—the head of one of the country's most powerful crime families. The bloodied body was wearing the same polo shirt Alperon was seen sporting earlier in the day at a Tel Aviv courthouse. Medics said three bystanders were also lightly wounded in the explosion, including a 13-year-old boy. Israelis are accustomed to violence with their Palestinian neighbors but have traditionally felt relatively safe from violent crime. In recent years, however, mob wars also have plagued Israeli towns and cities. Rival underworld gangs have waged bloody battles for control of gambling and protection rackets, including one involving bottle recycling.

UN resolution would increase Congo force

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—A proposed U.N. resolution would increase the 17,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force in conflict-wracked Congo by about 3,100 troops and police, according to the draft obtained Monday. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the top U.N. envoy in Congo, Alan Doss, have been urging the Security Council to beef up its presence in eastern Congo, where clashes between fighters loyal to rebel leader Laurent Nkunda and the Congolese army along with its allied militias have created a humanitarian crisis. Since fighting erupted in August, at least 250,000 people have been forced to flee their homes and camps where they had previously taken refuge. Human Rights Watch has criticized the U.N. peacekeeping force—known by its French acronym MONUC_for failing to protect civilians in places like Kiwanja, where at least 20 people were killed this week. A top African Union official echoed those comments Friday in Nairobi. Ban has acknowledged that the current force is stretched to the limit.

Campus Life

MATH COURT WINNERS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of the Golden Harvest International School who joined the K-5 math court competition last Nov. 8, 2008 at William S. Reyes Elementary School pose for a picture after the contest.

Golden Harvest International School once again joined the K-5 math court competition last Nov. 8, 2008 at William S. Reyes Elementary School. The school's young mathematicians harvested different honors in the competition.

Below are the winners who add pride to GHIS. Congratulations!

Geometry/Measurement
Kinder-5
1st Holly Sarah Liban
2nd Aldraine Galang
2nd Nicole Victoria Santos
2nd Rahmae Awit
3rd Renz Guiller Fauni
4th Daphne Cruzat

Data/Statistics/Probability
Kinder
1st Holly Sarah Liban
1st Rahmae Awit

Geometry/Measurement
First grade
2nd Kennedy Luther Vila

Data/Statistics/Probability
First grade
4th Kennedy Luther Vila

Geometry/Measurement
Second grade
1st Alfie Madlambayan
2nd Fernand Ramos
2nd Giselle Ivy Leong
2nd Alyanna Mercado
4th Enming Cacdac

Data/Statistics/Probability
Second grade
2nd Allan Tzady Calangi
2nd Alyanna Mercado
2nd Alfie Madlambayan
3rd Enming Cacdac
4th Giselle Ivy Leong

Geometry/Measurement
Third grade
1st Geuel Christian Villacrusis
3rd Franchesca Fauni

Data/Statistics/Probability
Third grade
1st Geuel Christian Villacrusis
1st Emmanuel Cobacha
1st Franchesca Fauni

Geometry/Measurement
Fourth grade
1st Tiffany Madlambayan

Data/Statistics/Probability
Fourth grade
4th Tiffany Madlambayan

Geometry/Measurement
Fifth grade
1st Shekinah Grace Armea

Data/Statistics/Probability
Fifth grade
3rd Shane Ann Cobacha

Aida M. Lim, coordinator and trainer
Bona Angeles, trainer
Mrs. Rose A. Tejada, principal

GCA'S PGFC WINNERS

The following are the students of Grace Christian Academy that won awards during the PGFC competition held Nov. 15, 2008, at the San Vicente Elementary School. The PGFC school coordinator is Esther Manzano.

K-2 DIVISION
Readers Forum- Masters A
Claudilyn Lacbayo - 1st Place
Jasmine Phan- 2nd Place
SheriJean Dela Cruz-3rd Place
Clark Birmingham-5th Place

Readers Forum- Masters B
Hannah Palacios-4th Place
Riley Anne Buenaventura-5th Place,

Readers Forum- Novice
Arvin Dayao- 2nd Place
Karena Lei Torres- 4th Place

Impromptu Speaking A
Seung Jae Kim- 3rd Place
Tae Yong Kim- 4th Place

Impromptu Speaking B
Clark Birmingham-1st Place
Caryl Andrei Batenga-2nd Place
Claudilyn Lacbayo - 3rd Place
Jim Michael Ham-5th Place

Choral Speaking B -2nd Place
SheriJean Dela Cruz
Andrei Ferrer
Marcelo Masilungan Jr.
Jasmine Phan
Karena Lei Torres

3-5 DIVISION
Readers Forum- Masters B
Yujin Lee-1st Place
Rita Laxamana-3rd Place
Glenn Vidal- 5th Place

Readers Forum- Masters C
Maia Pangelinan-2nd Place

Reader's Forum- Novice
Mark Daniel Versoza- 2nd Place
Asako Jobel Camacho-2nd Place
Cameron Boyer-4th Place
James Marasigan-4th Place

Humorous Interpretation A
Cameron Boyer-1st Place

Impromptu Speaking A
Dianne Arnold-2nd Place
Neill Conti- 4th Place

Impromptu Speaking B
Camille Masilungan-1st Place
Angela Cruz-2nd Place
Catrina Jean Pantaleon-5th Place

Duo Interpretation B- 3rd Place
Asako Jobel Camacho
Jenifer Yokoyama

Choral Speaking A -2nd Place
Dianne Arnold
Rita Laxamana
Maia Pangelinan
Catrina Jean Pantaleon

Noisom is the pride of the Tatagas

The "Tatagas" at the Tanapag Elementary School are very proud to have Liza Quitugua Noisom as their Teacher of the Year.

She is better known as "Ms. Liza" at school. She has been working at Tanapag for five years. She believes that every child can learn no matter what the circumstances are.

She has high expectation for every student entering her classroom. One thing about her as a teacher is that she never underestimates a child's potential for learning.

She is very active in the learning community. She has coordinated the school level Science Fair, Spelling Bee, and other monthly activities. She facilitates workshop both at the school and state level.

She spends her quiet time at home by reading a good novel or keeping up with the latest in educational materials. She enjoys being with her families.

Ms. Liza has adopted the motto: "It takes a village to raise a child."

Goooooooood job!

LILIA KING

SITE VISIT

Head Start director Keiko Yamagata, left, Western Michigan University's Andre Snett, rear, and L. Dannison, right, pose with Garapan Head Start students during their visit to the school. The two Western Michigan University staffers are here to provide training and technical assistance to the Public School System. Part of their T&TA is to observe all Head Start centers, talk with parents and staff, and help the program develop a health curriculum for parents.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Amendment of the Commonwealth's Consolidated Plan for Program Year 2005-2009
(This advertisement is paid for with CDBG funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the amendment of the Commonwealth's Consolidated Plan for Program Year 2005-2009. The amendment provides the inclusion of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) which will be made available to the Commonwealth by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Intended use of the NSP grant is described as follows:

Priority	Activity Type	Use of funds
NSP Purchase	The purchase and rehabilitation of homes and residential properties owned by banks/lending institutions that have been abandoned or foreclosed upon in the various villages of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, in order to sell such homes to eligible Low, Moderate, and Middle-Income homebuyers. [HERA §2301(c)(3)(B)]	At least 90% of NSP funds will be allocated to NSP Purchase and NSP Financing Activities
NSP Financing	Sale of NMHC-owned foreclosed properties in the various villages of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to eligible Low, Moderate, and Middle-Income homebuyers. [HERA §2301(c)(3)(A)]	At least 90% of NSP funds will be allocated to NSP Purchase and NSP Financing Activities
NSP Program and Administration Costs	Program and Administrative Costs	Up to 10% of NSP funds

All NSP funds shall be used to benefit individuals and families whose incomes do not exceed 120 percent of area median income. At least 25% of NSP funds will be used to purchase and rehabilitate homes that will be sold to eligible homebuyers whose incomes are at or below 50 percent of the area median income. The CNMI's income limits for NSP are published at http://www.huduser.org/publications/commdevl/nsp.html under Pacific Islands.

The NSP program also establishes the following affordability requirements:

NSP funds invested per Unit	**Minimum length of the Affordability Period**
Less than $15,000	5 years
$15,000- $40,000	10 years
More than $40,000	15 years

The Amended Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Written comments must be received by NMHC **no later than 4:30 p.m., November 30, 2008, at our designated NMHC branches.** NMHC will be open from 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm on Sunday, November 30, 2008 to receive comments from the public.

NMHC does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to or treatment or employment of individuals under its programs or activities. NMHC has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of Section 504, the ADA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 504 regulations implemented by the EEOC and the Department of Justice. NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities. If you should require any additional information or need special accommodations, please contact Zenie P. Mafnas, Planner/Grant Writer at 234-6866.

/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director

Life & Style

Marine monument plan inspires submarine trip

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan lagoon teems with different kinds of fish and corals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Propellers, the remnants of World War II-era aircraft, lie at the bottom of the Saipan lagoon.

Inspired by a presentation on the potential benefits to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands of a Mariana Trench Marine Monument, 32 tenth grade journalism students from Marianas High School took a 50-minute dive aboard a tourist sight-seeing yellow submarine.

The submarine *Deepstar*, owned by Pacific Subsea Saipan Inc., is designed to allow tourists to explore the beauty of the exotic underwater seascape in air conditioned-dry comfort. The *Deepstar* dives to a depth of 100 ft. with audio narration and music playing during the entire tour. Students got to see colorful tropical fishes, beautiful corals and a wide variety of marine life. The tour included visiting World War II historical artifacts, airplane and shipwreck sites.

Bryan Jones, the student's instructor, said: "The dive beneath the sea provided a wonderful educational opportunity for the students to better understand the world in which they live. Residents of the CNMI have always been closely linked to the ocean but the opportunity to spend time in underwater exploration is unique."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Submarine *Deepstar* is designed to allow tourists to explore the beauty of the exotic underwater seascape in air conditioned-dry comfort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The students peer out through the portholes at the enchanted underwater landscape.

The interest of the students in the Mariana Trench was triggered during a classroom presentation by Angelo Villagomez on the proposal to create a very large marine reserve in Northern CNMI waters. "It's not often that our students have an opportunity to become involved in an issue with national and global significance," said Jones.

In recent weeks, the proposal for a Mariana Trench Marine Monument has been mentioned in newspapers around the world. The proposal has generated considerable discussion in the CNMI and in Washington, D.C. during and following a visit to Saipan by senior White House officials.

Saipan is one of 12 islands in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that is part of the U.S. Pacific "family." It lies 3,820 miles West of Hawaii (eight-hour flight). The 60,000 residents are made up of indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian peoples, residents from the U.S. mainland and from all of the nearby Asian countries: Philippines, Japan, Korea, China, Thailand, Bangladesh.

MHS, a high school on island, has around 1,200 students from over 12 different countries.

The 50-minute Yellow Submarine dive showed the fascinated and curious students a close up view of the underwater home for a wide assortment of tropical fish and corals that inhibit this part of the Philippine Sea next to the Mariana Trench and North Pacific Ocean.

Jones, a long time underwater photographer and scuba diver, was delighted that some of his students have started to show an interest in studying the blue ocean waters and life within the seas that cover 70 percent of the planet.

Some of the comments from students when asked "What did the submarine dive help you to think about?":

Kate Edgar, age 15, wrote: "It helped me to think about the marine environment that most of us don't care about. It made me feel...united with the sea and the fishes living in it...as a part of the ecosystem system.

Keoni Agetular, age 15, wrote: "It also helped me think about all the things we can do to save all the living things in the water...like the fish and the corals."

Joey Songuo, age 16, wrote: "The submarine dive helped me think about protecting the natural beauty of our waters...meaning our lagoon."

Elisa Fejeran wrote: That I wished I could just walk around underwater and look around because it didn't look so harmful at the bottom of the ocean, unlike the top where the water is so rough, the bottom is calm.

Ryan Ichiharo, age 14, wrote: " It helped me to realize that we can do a lot better and save our water creatures before others kill or hurt them."

John Lizardo, age 15, wrote: "The purpose was to let us students understand how beautiful and how important marine life is to us."

The Marianas Trench Marine Monument will help the marine environment to be protected and make marine species reproduce evenly.

"The opportunity to witness first hand the magic of the real underwater water world and the creatures in it... was a first time educational experience for these island high school students," said Jones.

After the unique underwater submarine experience the amazed and hungry students headed for their favorite place to eat with the famous yellow arches. However only one student ordered a "fish" burger. ***(Bryan Jones)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tenth grade students from Marianas High School excitedly get on the submarine.

Australia hopes Nicole Kidman film spurs tourism

By TANALEE SMITH
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—The film camera sweeps across the landscape, taking in flat plains, gushing waterfalls and a dusty country town. The color is brilliant, the emptiness palpable, and the soundtrack soars dramatically as warplanes bomb a city.

This is "Australia," the new movie by award-winning director Baz Luhrmann. The World War II-era romantic epic, which opens later this month, has already been hailed for its cinematography and its pairing of Australian film stars Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman.

But tourism promoters claim the real star of the movie is the country itself.

Tourism Australia, the national tourism board, has launched a $26 million international advertising campaign based on the movie, highlighting the wilderness of Western Australia state and encouraging tourists to refresh themselves by getting away from bustling cities and their busy daily lives.

"We knew that this huge film would create a wave of publicity that would put the country in the spotlight around the globe," said Geoff Buckley, managing director of Tourism Australia. "And we found that the film's story had a remarkable resonance for what we do marketing the country as a travel destination."

The movie premieres Tuesday in Sydney - where the stars will attend - as well as Darwin, Bowen and Kununurra. It opens internationally on Nov. 26.

The film follows the story of a noblewoman on a cattle drive in Australia during World War II. The movie was filmed largely in rugged Western Australia, notably in and around the small town of Kununurra, a three-hour flight north of Perth, and in the California-sized Kimberley wilderness region.

Other film sites include working cattle stations at El Questro and Home Valley, the sandstone escarpments of the Cockburn Range and the striped mounds of the Bungle Bungle Range in Purnululu National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The movie's World War II scenes were mostly filmed in the northwest city of Darwin, where Japanese raids in 1942 and 1943 killed more than 900 people. Visitors to real-life Darwin can see a war memorial related to that attack as well as Stokes Hill Wharf, which provided the backdrop for some of the harbor scenes.

Other movie scenes set in Darwin were shot in Bowen, Queensland, a beach town north of the Whitsunday Islands. The real-life Strickland House at Vaucluse on Sydney Harbour, a historic 1850s villa and garden estate, served as the location for filming the movie's "Darwin Government House."

Various tour operators have begun offering tours of the Kimberley region in connection with the movie, and the state of Western Australia has begun its own $1.4 million tourism campaign of cinema, print, online advertisements and in-flight television.

"We want to make sure that moviegoers who are inspired to visit the region know that it's actually WA's stunning landscapes and outback adventure they're longing for," state tourism minister Liz Constable said in a statement last week.

The Northern Territory, where Darwin is situated, has also launched a $393,000 tourism campaign in the wake of the movie, touting the territory as "the real outback."

Northern Territory Chief Minister Paul Hnderson said the movie "really is going to put us on the map."

The national tourism campaign, dubbed "Come Walkabout," includes two commercials directed by Luhrmann, an Australian. The commercials, broadcast in 23 countries, feature busy professionals who are visited by a young Aboriginal child who sprinkles red dust into their hands.

"Sometimes, we have to get lost to find ourselves," the child whispers. "Sometimes, we gotta go walkabout." The overworked businessperson is then transported to a moonlit picnic under a baobab tree, or a refreshing swim in a billabong.

The ethereal campaign was criticized by erstwhile Australian celebrity Paul Hogan, of "Crocodile Dundee" fame. Decades ago, he starred in the "Throw Another Shrimp on the Barbie" tourism ads, which Hogan said highlighted the hospitality and friendliness that Australians are known for.

"If I go to your house for a visit and I want to come back, it's because I enjoyed your company, not your furniture," he told reporters recently. He complained that the new campaign ignored real Australians to instead focus on impersonal nature.

But if the campaign works, it wouldn't be the first time that a movie spurred tourism. Annie Dundas, U.S. regional manager for Tourism New Zealand, said that "The Lord of the Rings" movies were among "the biggest contributors to awareness for New Zealand from '03-06." She estimated that tourism numbers rose between 3-5 percent in each of the years that movies in the trilogy were released.

"We called it our three-hour commercial," she joked, adding that the blockbuster films "put New Zealand on the map for a larger proportion of Americans than we could have hoped to achieve through just advertising."

Australian tourism boards, meanwhile, are counting on the country's natural beauty to lure moviegoers across the seas.

Another lure? Kidman has spoken in interviews of the "fertility waters" of Kununurra, saying that she and six other women on the film became pregnant after swimming among the waterfalls outside the town.

AP

Australian actors Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman walk to a photo opportunity following their press conference for their latest movie, "Australia," in Sydney, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008. The world premier for Australia will be held in Sydney later Tuesday.

IF YOU GO

■ **TOURISM AUSTRALIA:** http://www.australia.com/ or 800-965-6252. Look for film-themed packages and Qantas airfare deals.

■ **WESTERN AUSTRALIA TOURISM:** http://www.tourism.wa.gov.au/

■ **"AUSTRALIA" MOVIE SITE:** http://www.australiamovie.com/

■ **BY AIR:** Travel to Australia is 13 hours from Los Angeles to Sydney, longer for travelers coming from New York or those traveling beyond Sydney to Western Australia. Lowest round-trip fares showing up on Kayak.com from LAX to Sydney average $1,300, but the Qantas.com site lists some pre-holiday flights at $810. Qantas is also introducing an "Aussie AirPass" for $1,200 that covers round-trip fare from Los Angeles, San Francisco or Honolulu, plus three domestic Australian flights including Darwin, Sydney and Kimberley.

■ **CURRENCY:** The Australian dollar has declined in value against the U.S. dollar nearly 50 percent since July. In early summer, the two currencies were nearly equivalent, but now one U.S. dollar is worth more than $1.50 in Australian money.

Report: McCready not proud of ties to Clemens

NEW YORK (AP)—Country singer Mindy McCready claims she broke off her relationship with Roger Clemens when the former baseball star wouldn't marry her, according to an interview to be broadcast Monday by the syndicated show "Inside Edition."

McCready, however, was quoted on the Web site of the New York Daily News on Monday as saying she didn't want to marry Clemens.

McCready told "Inside Edition" she met Clemens when she was 16, not 15, as reported by the New York Daily News last April. She told the news magazine they met in a karaoke bar, that her relationship with the pitcher didn't turn sexual until several years later and the relationship lasted for a decade.

"Carrying on a relationship with him is not something I'm proud of," she said, according to a partial transcript released by the show. "Roger Clemens is one of the most wonderful men I've ever known. ... He treated me like a princess."

Clemens in May denied having an affair with a 15-year-old but didn't specifically address whether he had a romance with McCready. He issued a statement that "I have made mistakes in my personal life for which I am sorry."

Clemens' lawyer, Rusty Hardin, did not respond to an e-mail for comment Monday.

"We never had a meeting in secret. We went on vacations together. We went to Palm Springs. We went to Las Vegas, New York City," told "Inside Edition." I wanted him to do right by me ... and when he wouldn't, I broke it off."

But McCready was quoted by the Daily News as saying: "I didn't want to get married to him and I don't want to get married now. He should have done right by his family - a person is unhappy in their marriage and spending all their personal time with someone else, you need to do right by your marriage. He should have just told Debbie and been honest with her. If he didn't want to be with her and wanted to be with me, he should have told her."

McCready regrets any hurt inflicted on Debbie Clemens' the pitcher's wife.

"I have nothing but remorse and nothing but sympathy for what she's had to go through with this situation, and she has my utmost apology," she told "Inside Edition."

McCready released from jail in Tennessee on Oct. 31 after serving about 30 days for violating probation on a 2004 drug charge. She only had to serve about half of her 60-day sentence because of credits she received for good behavior and doing janitorial work in the jail, the Williamson County Sheriff's Department said.

Now 32, she was accused in June of falsifying her community service records and charged with violating her probation. McCready received a suspended three-year sentence in 2004 for fraudulently obtaining prescription painkillers.

"There aren't words to describe how painful it's been," she told "Inside Edition." "So painful, I haven't wanted to live. ... I've lived recklessly. I've made a lot of mistakes."

Michael Jackson sued by Arab sheikh in UK court

LONDON (AP)—The son of an Arab monarch took the King of Pop to court Monday, charging that Michael Jackson took $7 million as an advance on an album and an autobiography that he never produced.

Lawyers for Sheikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa say their client paid Jackson expenses as an advance on the book and joint recording project with the sheikh, who is an amateur songwriter. Jackson claims the money was a gift.

Al Khalifa, 33, was due to testify at London's Royal Courts of Justice on Wednesday. Jackson's lawyer Robert Englehart said he was seeking permission to have Jackson testify by video link from Los Angeles.

A lawyer for Al Khalifa said the royal first spoke to Jackson, 50, by telephone while the singer was on trial in California following his 2003 arrest on child molestation charges. Attorney Bankim Thanki said that Al Khalifa wanted to work with Jackson on rebuilding his career. Jackson's finances fell apart after his arrest and he was desperately short of cash.

Al Khalifa's first payment, for $35,000, went toward paying the utility bills at Neverland, Jackson's 2,500-acre (1,000 hectare) ranch and miniature amusement park in California, Thanki said. When Jackson was found innocent of the molestation charges in June 2005, Al Khalifa footed $2.2 million in legal bills, the lawyer said.

Al Khalifa said he believed the money would be repaid once Jackson's career recovered from the damaging trial.

"I saw the payment as an investment in Michael's potential," the sheikh said in a statement read out by his lawyer in court. "He said he would pay me back ... through our work together."

Al Khalifa moved Jackson and his entourage to Bahrain almost immediately after the trial, setting up a recording studio for him in Manama, the Gulf state's capital. The sheikh, who is the governor of Bahrain's Southern Province, supplied Jackson with $500,000 in cash to subsidize his lifestyle and splashed out on a $350,000 European vacation for Jackson and his associates in February of 2006, Thanki said.

"The costs even included the expenses of bringing out Mr. Jackson's hairdresser," he said.

The lawyer said Jackson and the sheikh became close friends and at one time both lived in a palace in Abu Dhabi owned by Al Khalifa's father, Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Bahrain's king. The singer stayed nearly a year in Bahrain as a guest of the son, but the relationship soured when Jackson repudiated a business deal Thanki said they had agreed to.

Jackson's lawyers say the pair never entered a valid agreement and that Al Khalifa's money was given freely.

Thanki acknowledged that Al Khalifa gave some gifts to Jackson but said that most of what the singer received was part of a business deal.

The gifts, he said, "were essentially personal effects - watches, jewelry."

Thanki said the sheik was wealthy but that paying Jackson's bills had taken a big bite out of his finances.

"Some of the payments were staggering by any standards," Thanki said, saying the expenditure "should not be regarded as loose change for my client."

As for Jackson, he still appears to be in difficult financial straits.

Last week, he was forced to give up the deed on Neverland, which is named for the mythical land of Peter Pan.

The trial is being held in London because the parties had agreed to take any disputes over their deal to an English court, Al Khalifa's representatives said. The trial is due to wrap up by the end of the month.

AP

In this Nov. 8, 2007 file photo, pop star Michael Jackson poses on the red carpet during the RainbowPUSH Coalition Los Angeles 10th annual awards in Los Angeles.

New Springsteen disc set for January

AP

This Sept. 28, 2007 file photo shows Bruce Springsteen as he appears with his band on the NBC "Today" television program in New York's Rockefeller Center.

NEW YORK (AP)—Five days before he takes the stage at the Super Bowl, Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band will release a new album written and recorded during breaks in their concert tour.

The release of "Working on a Dream" on Jan. 27, only 15 months after "Magic," is unusually quick for an artist with a reputation as a perfectionist.

Springsteen said he was juiced by the return to a more pop sound on "Magic" and kept writing after its release. Producer Brendan O'Brien, when he heard the new songs, suggested "let's keep going," Springsteen said in a statement.

As with "Magic," the new album was recorded with the E Street Band and O'Brien primarily in Atlanta.

"I hope `Working on a Dream' has caught the energy of the band fresh off the road from some of the most exciting shows we've ever done," Springsteen said. "All the songs were written quickly, we usually used one of our first few takes and we all had a blast making this one from beginning to end."

Springsteen is the latest rocker to perform during halftime at the Super Bowl, after the Rolling Stones, U2 and Paul McCartney. This year's game will be played Feb. 1 in Tampa, Fla.

The album also comes a week after the inauguration of Barack Obama. Springsteen performed at some rallies for Obama this fall.

The album has 12 tracks listed, with two more - "The Wrestler" and "A Night With the Jersey Devil" - considered bonus tracks.

Song titles include "My Lucky Day"; "Queen of the Supermarket"; "What Love Can Do"; "Tomorrow Never Knows"; "Surprise, Surprise" and "The Last Carnival."

Lansbury and company set for 'Blithe Spirit'

NEW YORK (AP)—Casting is nearly complete for the Broadway revival of Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit," which will bring Angela Lansbury back to Broadway and will also star Christine Ebersole, Jayne Atkinson, Simon Jones and Rupert Everett.

The production, directed by Michael Blakemore, will begin performances Feb. 26 at the Shubert Theatre, with an opening date to be determined.

Lansbury, a four-time Tony winner, will play the dotty medium Madame Arcati who inadvertently summons from beyond the grave the first wife of an English novelist, played by Everett. Ebersole portrays the deceased helpmate, Elvira, while Atkinson is the man's second wife, Ruth.

"Blithe Spirit" was a big hit in London and New York in the 1940s. It was last seen on Broadway in 1987 in a production that starred Richard Chamberlain, Blythe Danner, Judith Ivey and Geraldine Page as Madame Arcati.

Lloyd: Burned home gives a 'different awareness'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Christopher Lloyd says he has a "different awareness" after returning to his burned-out Montecito home.

The "Back to the Future" actor told ABC's "Good Morning America" that he wouldn't rebuild the $11 million home in the celebrity enclave northwest of Los Angeles. It was among dozens of homes lost in wildfires.

"You watch TV, you see these kinds of incidents happening here and there, but you look with a kind of detachment because it's happening ... elsewhere," he said, walking through the rubble. "But suddenly to be in the midst of it, it's a very different awareness."

Lloyd he'd been putting off organizing and storing memorabilia that he'd kept at the house.

"Kind of don't have to worry about that now," he said.

ESPN brings back New Year's Eve daredevils

NEW YORK (AP)—New Year's Eve in Times Square is too old school for ESPN. The sports network plans to ring in 2009 with a motorcycle jump and truck flip in Las Vegas.

ESPN was pleasantly surprised by the success of a similar daredevil program on New Year's Eve last year, even though one of its planned stunts fell through when Rhys Millen broke some vertebrae during a practice run.

Millen will be back this year, trying again to do a complete back-flip of an off-road truck. Robbie "Maddo" Maddison will try to jump to the top of the 96-foot-high replica of the Arc de Triomphe in front of the Paris Las Vegas Hotel.

ESPN plans to air both stunts from Las Vegas without a tape delay, said Joan Lynch, ESPN's vice president for content development.

That's a sign of confidence in Millen and Maddison and a signal that appropriate safety precautions have been taken, she said. In the event something goes wrong, the cameras can quickly cut away and there will be no exploitation, she said.

ESPN tried a few years back to have a traditional New Year's Eve program, with music and partying from Times Square. But it wasn't particularly distinctive, she said.

Last year's daredevil episode —where Maddison leaped more than the length of a football field on his motorcycle—brought in more than five million viewers, Lynch said. The event, "Red Bull: New Year. No Limits," is more consistent with the network's image, she said.

"Watching the ball drop is fun," Lynch said. "But it doesn't leave you on the edge of your seat. This does."

Actually, the ESPN show will break briefly to show the ball drop in Times Square before getting back to the stunts, she said.

Maddison not only needs to jump high and precisely to complete his stunt, he'll then jump off the imitation Are de Triomphe, "which is just as dangerous, if not more dangerous," Lynch said.

ESPN didn't expect Millen to return, but he wanted to prove his stunt could work, Lynch said.

She said last year's audience proved to be more than just young men who couldn't get dates on New Year's Eve.

"We found that it was a lot of kids last year," she said. "It was a lot of families. I encourage people of a certain age to remember what it was like watching an Evel Knievel stunt."

AP

In this Dec. 3, 2007 file photo, Sacha Baron Cohen arrives at the premiere of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" at the Ziegfeld Theatre in New York.

'Borat' star crashes NBC drama 'Medium'

NEW YORK (AP)—Even a make-believe psychic couldn't spot the scam when an actor disrupted a scene for "Medium" involving Patricia Arquette, who stars as psychic Allison DuBois in the NBC drama.

After the unruly extra was ejected by security, the truth became clear: He was chameleonic comic prankster Sacha Baron Cohen in his identity as outrageous fashion reporter Bruno.

It was unclear how Cohen gained entry to the set, and whether he was secretly filming his performance for his own use, according to Entertainment Weekly's Web site, which first reported the incident on http://www.EW.com. But prior to the Nov. 7 invasion in Los Angeles, Cohen had been shooting other "crash" footage for his new film, a followup to his comedy hit "Borat."

Perfume maker sues Prince over contract

NEW YORK (AP)—A perfume company is claiming Prince and his music publisher failed to honor a contract to help market a fragrance named for the album "3121."

The breach-of-contract lawsuit was filed Monday by Revelations Perfume and Cosmetics Inc. in New York. The company says it licensed Prince's name, likeness and the album title "3121" to market its fragrance.

Revelations says it spent $2.5 million and agreed to pay Universal half of net profits from sales of the perfume. But it claims Universal and Prince haven't participated in various promotions since the frangrance launch in July 2007.

Universal spokesman Peter LoFrumento calls the claims "completely without merit." Prince's music studio in Chanhassen, Minn., did not answer several calls.

AP

In this Feb. 10, 2008 file photo, Prince appears on stage at the 50th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

AP

This photo provided by Val Verde, Texas, County Sheriff's Office shows one-time NFL cheerleader and reality TV bride-to-be Mary Delgado who is out of jail after being arrested in a Del Rio, Texas, bar, Sunday, Nov 16, 2008.

Former 'Bachelor' winner arrested for unruliness

DEL RIO, Texas (AP)—A former NFL cheerleader and winner of "The Bachelor" is out of jail after being arrested in a southwest border-town bar for unruly behavior.

Mary Delgado, who accepted a televised proposal from professional bass fisherman Byron Velvick on 2004's "The Bachelor," was arrested in Del Rio after refusing to leave a local bar.

Delgado, 41, was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct, public intoxication, and resisting arrest. She was released about an hour later.

It's unclear if the former Buccaneers cheerleader had an attorney. A telephone listing could not be found for Delgado's home state of Florida, where she was arrested last year on a charge that she struck a man she lived with.

Prescription drugs cited in Locklear DUI charge

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors in Santa Barbara have charged Heather Locklear with misdemeanor driving under the influence, citing prescription drugs. The California Highway Patrol said the actress showed "obvious impairment" when an officer noticed her car parked on a highway and blocking a lane in Montecito in September, but that alcohol was ruled out.

Locklear

She was tested for drugs at a police station and released.

Locklear, whose TV credits include "Dynasty" and "Melrose Place," divorced from Bon Jovi guitarist Richie Sambora last year and sought treatment for anxiety and depression in June.

Locklear is scheduled for arraignment on Jan. 26. Her attorney, Blair Berk, had no comment when reached via e-mail Monday.

Miley Cyrus the victim of 'Net death hoax

NEW YORK (AP)—No need to grieve, tweens: Miley Cyrus is not dead.

The "Hannah Montana" star, who is alive and well, was the victim of an Internet hoax over the weekend when someone hacked into her YouTube account and posted a video alleging she'd been killed by a drunken driver.

The video, which has been taken down, had a fake message from Cyrus pal Mandy Jiroux, who swiftly denied the rumor in a posting on her official MySpace page.

Wrote Jiroux: "MILEY IS OK!! Some1 hacked our youtube account."

More proof: The Associated Press interviewed Cyrus at the Los Angeles junket for the Disney animated film "Bolt" on Sunday night. She voices a 12-year-old TV actress in the movie, which hits theaters Nov. 21.

AP

Singer Miley Cyrus arrives at the 42nd Annual CMA Awards on Wednesday Nov. 12, 2008 Nashville, Tenn.

Childhood friend has grown too adult for her roommate

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I moved to a small town a few years ago to take a job in a very public position. This is a place where everyone knows everyone else's business, so I try hard to maintain a good reputation.

About a year ago, a childhood friend, "Lindsay," came to visit. She loved the town so much she decided to move here and be my roommate.

At first I was excited at the prospect, but my enthusiasm has waned since finding out that Lindsay is very promiscuous. Since January she has had sex with seven men, sometimes dating more than one at a time.

I worry about her because this behavior is unhealthy. I also worry that associating with her could damage my reputation, not to mention my uneasiness about waking up and finding strange men in my apartment—some of whom she met only the night before. I think she is compromising both of our safety.

How can I handle this tactfully? Lindsay is an adult; I don't feel I can tell her how to live her personal life. Should I ask her to move out? Aside from this problem, she is an excellent roommate.

NOT THAT KIND OF GIRL

DEAR NOT THAT KIND: Your letter brings to mind several old sayings. One: People are known by the company they keep. Two: Birds of a feather flock together. Three: People who lie down with dogs usually get up with fleas.

Do not try to tell Lindsay how to live her life. DO remind her that she is now living in a small town where tongues wag. Then explain that although you like her very much, your lifestyles are not compatible and you would like her to move. Your concerns about waking up to find strangers in your apartment are valid, and your choice of roommates is a reflection on you.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Justin," and I were in a four-year committed relationship. We agreed to wait on marriage and children. I never really wanted children, but if Justin wanted one, I would have his baby. He is 29, and I am 42.

Last summer I was shocked to learn that Justin and his best friend, "Beth," had had a baby girl together through in vitro. They plan to raise the child together. I still wanted to save our relationship, so I accepted his new life and tried to deal with it.

A month after that, Justin informed me that he is gay! I am devastated. We still love each other, and he wants to continue his relationship with me.

Justin does not have a man in his life—just the baby and Beth, who live with him. He has no romantic interest in her. I am so sad without him. Should I stay in this relationship?

CONFUSED AND HEARTBROKEN IN NEW YORK

DEAR CONFUSED: Whatever Justin's true sexual orientation may be, he has not been honest with you from the beginning. Please do not accept his word for it that Beth is only a friend, that their child was not conceived the old-fashioned way, or that he is gay.

My advice is to cut your losses NOW. This man has a child and a live-in who will take priority over you. Accept that if Justin cared at all about your feelings, you would have been told about the baby long before its birth. So end this charade and spare yourself even more grief.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I moved to the South and enrolled our son in a private Christian school. Many times when meeting other parents I am asked, "What service do you attend?" The truth is, my husband and I are not particularly religious, and we don't attend church.

How should I respond without feeling like a bad person or a bad parent?

MEMBER OF NO CHURCH, IN TENNESSEE

DEAR NON-MEMBER: You live in a free country, not a theocracy. If you are not particularly religious, nothing compels you to go to church.

My advice is to be frank and say you are not affiliated with a church, and that you enrolled your son in that school because you felt he would receive a good education there. It's the truth, and it doesn't make you a bad person or a bad parent.

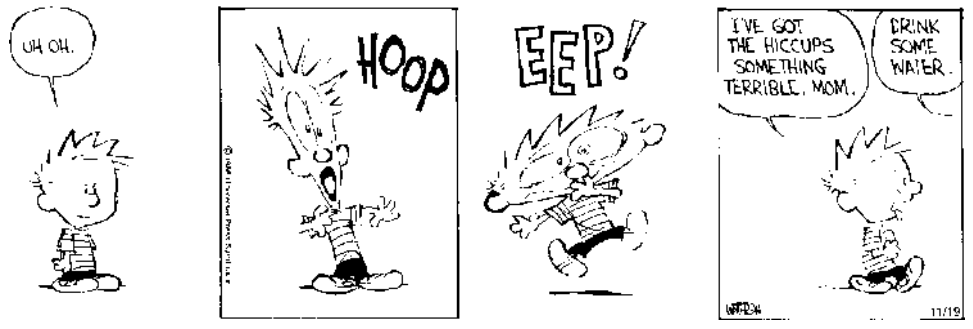
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

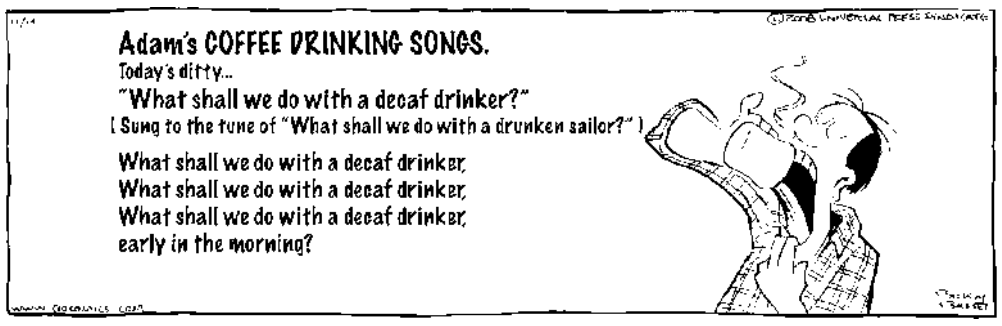


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


Adam's COFFEE DRINKING SONGS.
Today's ditty...
"What shall we do with a decaf drinker?"
(Sung to the tune of "What shall we do with a drunken sailor?")
What shall we do with a decaf drinker,
What shall we do with a decaf drinker,
What shall we do with a decaf drinker,
early in the morning?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sandwich letters
4 Massage
7 Eins, zwei, —
8 Gives a hoot
10 Existence
11 Charlie's staff
13 2008 Greg Kinnear film
16 Shark part
17 Rough woolen fabric
18 Conk out
19 Coop group
20 Ballet leap
21 Expositions
23 Attention-getting light
25 "My bad"
26 Connect
27 Dandy
28 Cheech's partner
30 Eventual aves
33 Here today, gone tomorrow type
36 Arm holder
37 Pollster's find
38 Ham-strings
39 Green land
40 "Mayday!"
41 "CSI" evidence

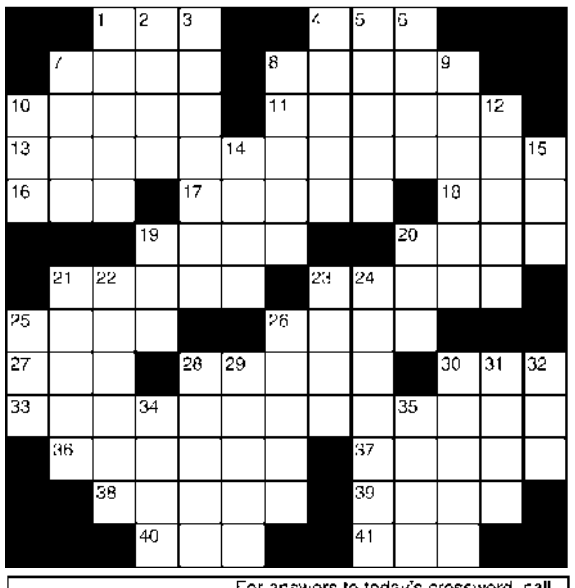
DOWN

1 "Family Guy" dog
2 Photog's choice
3 More constricting
4 Gamut
5 Incited
6 Existed
7 Where heros are made?
8 Small restaurants
9 Pitcher's option
10 Closest pal, to a texter
12 Hotel accommodation
14 Possesses
15 Witness
19 That guy's
20 One of the Brady bunch
21 Puts one over on
22 Shock
23 Type selection
24 Illuminated
25 Vacationing
26 Singer Norah
28 Medical treatment, for short
29 Urticaria
30 Beethoven's "Fidelio," e.g.
31 Barn roof adornment
32 Moreover
34 Vast expanses
35 Ms. Brockovich

Solution time: 21 mins.

L	A	M	B	■	C	B	S	■	O	W	L	S
C	G	L	L	■	B	R	A	■	P	L	A	I
C	R	O	C	■	F	A	G	I	F	E	Y	F
H	A	W	K	E	Y	E	■	E	R	N	S	I
■	■	■	F	I	S	■	R	S	A	■	■	■
C	H	A	F	M	■	C	A	■	S	E	Y	E
J	A	B	■	■	R	U	G	■	■	V	O	W
S	H	U	T	E	Y	E	■	Q	U	E	U	E
■	■	■	A	G	E	■	B	U	N	■	■	■
A	M	O	N	G	■	D	E	A	D	E	Y	E
B	I	R	D	S	E	Y	E	■	I	C	E	S
F	I	S	F	■	A	N	T	■	F	R	A	S
J	O	O	M	■	R	E	S	■	S	U	R	F

Yesterday's answer 11-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kerri Strug, 31; Jodie Foster, 46; Meg Ryan, 47; Allison Janney, 49

Happy Birthday: Don't let your emotions lead you down the wrong path. Weakness will work against you this year, so stand tall and make your point clear as you proceed forward. Keep you mind on work and getting ahead. Promptly take care of any personal financial problems or expenses that arise and you will win. Your numbers are 2, 8, 23, 27, 32, 34, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Step into the spotlight and do something that surprises everyone. Your courageous position will show everyone what you are capable of doing. A powerful from-the-heart presentation will generate attention. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't get railroaded into giving your valuable time to a cause or someone you don't believe in. Don't be swayed by someone playing on your emotions. Keep spending to a minimum. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can make residential moves, investments and some agreements that will help you out financially. Consolidation and a strict budget will help get you moving on the right track before the year comes to an end. Offer a service and make extra cash. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You have to keep an eye on both household matters and the changes occurring in the workplace. Now is not the time to instigate something new but it is a good time to stabilize your position by strengthening what you already have. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take a good look at what you need to do to make your life better. Engage in activities that are physically and mentally challenging. It will take your mind off what others are trying to get you to do. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Observe but don't speak your mind if you want to avoid someone meddling in your affairs or questioning you. Focus on yourself and the ones you love. Love is looking positive and a little get-together late in the day will resolve some questions. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Be careful what you say in the heat of a discussion. Concentrate on what you can do outside the home with people who agree with your position and your solutions. Your creative input to a discussion will get you more involved if you want to be. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): It won't be worth getting upset with someone who doesn't see things the same way you do. An odd occurrence will leave you questioning what actually happened. You will be able to take care of everything without missing out on what you want to do, as well. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Someone from your past will still feel a strong connection to you. If you refrained from taking action in the past, do so now before it's too late. A challenge will get you all pumped up and ready to go. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't pay for someone else's mistake. Getting involved in something because someone makes you feel guilty will be costly. Someone trying to get you to do something will give you a false impression regarding your responsibilities or duties. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep things upfront and honest, especially with relationship issues. Someone you are close to will question your plans for a bigger and better lifestyle. Explain your position but don't pass on an opportunity because of jealousy or fear. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your persistent nature will pay off and bring about a change of attitude among your peers. Talks, travel and financing should all be scheduled into your plans. Keep talking until the right partner comes along. You are in the driver's seat. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have strength of character, determination and the desire to follow through with your plans. You are strong, dedicated, emotional and caring.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1	5	2	9	4			
		3			6	2	1	
		2			1			7
	7					5		8
9							2	3
4							9	
	2					9		
		7			9			
			8	1				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	6	9	3	8	2	5	7	4
5	2	3	4	1	7	6	9	8
7	8	4	9	6	5	2	1	3
2	3	8	5	9	6	7	4	1
4	9	7	2	3	1	8	6	5
6	1	5	7	4	8	9	3	2
8	7	6	1	2	3	4	5	9
9	5	1	8	7	4	3	2	6
3	4	2	6	5	9	1	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them, and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The unclaimed letters spell the Wonderword.

SMOKED OCTOPUS SALAD — Solution: 4 letters

S	B	K	P	A	R	S	L	E	Y	L	A	T	I	T
B	R	A	E	N	I	W	S	T	L	A	S	S	T	N
R	E	N	R	E	O	C	T	A	E	H	T	L	S	A
E	A	A	A	B	R	E	O	N	I	O	N	I	E	R
H	D	D	N	E	E	G	P	I	E	C	E	C	Z	U
E	M	E	O	S	N	C	D	I	C	E	I	E	D	A
S	I	E	G	O	S	A	U	I	C	P	D	O	E	T
E	N	T	N	A	F	A	R	E	S	E	E	T	R	S
V	I	O	E	I	K	A	U	R	N	H	R	A	A	E
O	T	S	S	T	B	C	E	C	E	R	G	M	P	R
I	I	S	A	E	A	M	A	S	E	T	N	O	E	U
G	Y	E	T	T	M	L	O	P	R	P	I	T	R	T
N	M	C	H	I	L	I	P	C	G	O	A	D	P	X
A	E	O	S	Y	R	E	L	E	C	W	K	N	E	I
S	T	U	O	R	P	S	E	T	A	N	I	R	A	M

© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 11/19

Barbecue, Beans, Bowl, Bread, Celery, Chili, Combine, Dice, Dish, Greek, Green, Heat, Herbs, Ingredients, Italy, Limes, Marinate, Meat, Mediterranean, Mint, Mixture, Onion, Packaged, Parsley, Pepper, Piece, Plate, Pots, Prepared, Recipe, Restaurant, Salt, Sangiovese, Saucepan, Seafood, Simmer, Slice, Spice, Sprouts, Stir, Taste, Thyme, Tomato, Toss, Water, Wine, Zest

Yesterday's Answer: Protons

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment Room for Rent.
2 Bedroom $210.00. Koblerville.
Contact: Mr. Yoon @ 288-0728.

WHATZIT Solution:
Age of consent

FOR SALE/RENT OR LEASE

3000 sqm. land property, As Lito area, negotiable. Contact Minda Ereno @ (670) 789-3532/288-1191. Rent-to-own.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, 24-hr pwr./water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. MIHA applicants accepted. Right behind NMC campus. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Computer Repair
Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

agreement

© 2008 WHATZIT™ is a trademark of Paul Sahner. All rights reserved. Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Find today's solution in this section

Ever thought of a Career in Healthcare?
Are you outgoing, bright and friendly?

You may have what it takes to join the team of Eye Care Assistants at Marianas Eye Institute!

No healthcare experience needed. We will train you!

Requirements:
- US Citizen or IR Status
- High school diploma with a GPA of 3.3 or higher
- Police Clearance
- Previous work experience
- Computer Skills
- Credit Check
- Bright and friendly
- Letter of recommendation from previous employer

Benefits:
- Competitive salary
- Health Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Retirement Plan
- Productivity Bonuses
- Profit Sharing
- Generous Leave Benefits
- Paid Holidays

Great work environment, great benefits!

Apply in person at...

Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

Garapan, across from 13 Fisherman Monument
No Phone Calls Please

share the power of a wish℠

"I want to meet Winnie the Pooh!"

"When I grow up, I want to become a police officer!"

15 years of making wishes come true!

For eligible children with life-threatening illnesses

MAKE-A-WISH®

Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104
Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH
Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net
www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm
M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

TEMPORARY (1 YEAR) POSITION

"SYSTEMS NAVIGATOR"

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI), a non-profit organization under 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Code, seeks a **SYSTEMS NAVIGATOR**. This is a non-exempt position responsible for carrying out the objectives of the Family Support 360 program as per Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD). The Systems Navigator reports to the Program Manager and works under direct supervision within prescribed standards, policies and procedures.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- An Associates Degree (A.A. or A.S.) in any related field or no less than 60 credit hours from a post secondary school; or
- Two (2) years of experience that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the specific principles and practices for the work in this position.

PREFERRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

- Interpersonal skills which allow employee to maintain productive working relationships with co-workers, clients and other working professionals;
- Oral and written communication skills that enable employee to effectively and professionally communicate with co-workers, clients and other working professionals; and
- Proficiency in usage of computers including, but not limited to word processing and spreadsheet applications.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on middle road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for applications to be considered they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resumé, (3) Completed Application forms, (4) a Police Clearance and (5) must be submitted ***no later than 5:00pm on November 30, 2008.*** Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. Jim Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278[tty] or email at nmpasi@pticom.com . NMPASI IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

James M. Rayphand
Executive Director

John Guerrero
President

Make it a **daily** habit! www.saipantribune.com

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Cardinals' Pujols wins NL MVP award

NEW YORK (AP)— Albert Pujols views MVP voting a little differently these days. "You have to consider everything. You have to put all the numbers together," the St. Louis star said Monday after powering past Philadelphia slugger Ryan Howard to win the award for the second time.

Pujols won despite the Cardinals finishing in fourth place, the lowest spot for an NL MVP winner since Andre Dawson and Chicago Cubs wound up sixth in 1987. Howard led the majors in home runs and RBIs for the World Series champs.

The result surely will renew a debate that Pujols once raised himself: What qualifies as "most valuable"?

In 2006, a month after leading the Cardinals to the World Series crown, Pujols carped when Howard—whose Phillies missed the playoffs—captured the coveted award.

"I see it this way: Someone who doesn't take his team to the playoffs doesn't deserve to win the MVP," Pujols said at that time.

Shortly thereafter, Pujols clarified his remarks and said Howard certainly was worthy of the award.

"I think the writers made the right choice in 2006," Pujols reiterated Monday. "He did deserve it."

Just as Pujols believed he earned it this year.

"I wasn't surprised at all," he said.

Pujols hit .357 with 37 home runs and 116 RBIs while playing with a sore right elbow that required surgery. Howard hit 48 homers with 146 RBIs for the Phillies.

AP

St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols talks at a press conference after he won his second NL MVP award, Monday, Nov. 17, 2008 in St. Louis.

Voting was completed before the playoffs began.

"I'm happy I didn't have to make that decision," Pujols said on a conference call from his St. Louis home. "What you do for your team. The players who take their teams to the playoffs should have some consideration."

Los Angeles outfielder Manny Ramirez and Milwaukee pitcher CC Sabathia, who both led postseason pushes after being traded by AL teams in July, also drew strong support.

Pujols got 18 of the 32 first-place votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America and had 369 points. Howard drew 12 first-place votes and 308 points.

Pujols added to the MVP award he won in 2005, and was the only player listed on every ballot. The All-Star first baseman became the 25th multiple MVP winner in either league.

Milwaukee outfielder Ryan Braun was third with 139 points, with Ramirez fourth at 138. Houston's Lance Berkman was fifth and Sabathia sixth.

Brad Lidge, perfect on 41 save chances for the Phillies during the regular season, drew the other two first-place votes and came in eighth.

Pujols was remarkably consistent all year—a trait he's demonstrated throughout his career. He is the only big leaguer to hit at least 30 home runs in his first eight seasons in the majors, and has finished in the top 10 of the NL MVP voting each year.

Pujols led the league in slugging percentage and intentional walks. He drew 104 walks while striking out only 54 times, and was second in the NL with a .462 on-base percentage.

Almost single-handedly, when the Cardinals' rotation was depleted by injuries, he kept St. Louis in contention while batting .398 in the month of August. The Cardinals finished 86-76, 11 1/2 games behind the Central champion Cubs.

In mid-October, Pujols had surgery for nerve irritation in his right elbow, an ailment that caused numbness, tingling in his ring finger and pinkie, a weak grip and pain inside his forearm. He hopes to resume weight training after Thanksgiving and is expected to be ready for spring training.

"I had some pain," he said. "The worst part was the last two months."

Pujols said there was still a slight chance he might need Tommy John reconstructive elbow surgery.

"I'm crossing my fingers," he said.

Howard was hitting under .200 toward the end of May. His slow starts have cost him—this year, he was the first player since Cincinnati's Hank Sauer in 1948 to be left off the All-Star team despite leading his league in homers and RBIs at the break.

Howard's best month came in September, when he set a team record with 32 RBIs and helped the Phillies rally to the NL East title. He hit .251 overall.

Ramirez had 138 points. He hit .396 with 17 home runs and 53 RBIs after the Dodgers got him from Boston on July 31, and led Los Angeles' push to the NL West title.

Sabathia got 121 points. He was 11-2 with a 1.65 ERA after Milwaukee acquired him from Cleveland on July 6, and helped the Brewers win the wild-card spot.

Phillies shortstop Jimmy Rollins, who won the NL MVP last season, did not receive a single vote this year.

Pujols earned a $200,000 bonus for winning the award. Ramirez got $75,000 and Braun got $50,000.

Dawson's 56-yard field goal wins it for Browns

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Turns out the Cleveland Browns aren't quitters after all. And they have Phil Dawson to thank for this wild win.

Dawson capped a five field-goal outing by hitting a career-long 56-yarder with 1:39 remaining to secure the Browns' 29-27 win over the reeling Buffalo Bills on Monday night. Cleveland snapped a two-game skid and avoided wasting a 13-point lead for a third straight time.

The Bills (5-5) had a chance to win with a clutch kick of their own, but Rian Lindell missed a 47-yard attempt with 38 seconds left.

It was a morale-boosting win for the Browns (4-6), who appeared on the verge of completely unraveling after running back Jamal Lewis accused his teammates of quitting during a 34-30 loss to Denver on Nov. 6.

"We got tired of what happened the previous two weeks, getting a lead and losing it in the fourth quarter," receiver Braylon Edwards said. "As a team, we rallied. We came together when we were supposed to and made the plays necessary to win."

Buffalo has lost four straight and five of six, looking nothing like the team that got off to a 4-0 start. Trent Edwards endured another sloppy performance, tossing three interceptions in Buffalo's first four possessions.

Edwards' 1-yard sneak gave the Bills a 27-26 lead with 2:35 left in the fourth, but Cleveland responded with a six-play, 28-yard drive that stalled on the Bills 39 when Braylon Edwards couldn't hold on to Brady Quinn's pass at the right sideline.

Without hesitation, Browns coach Romeo Crennel sent out Dawson, who calmly got off an easy kick that started toward the right goal post, before curling in to split the uprights.

"On the spur of the moment, you've got to be confident. So as soon as we threw the incomplete pass on third down, I was ready to go," Dawson said. "I gave Romeo a nod, and he had the confidence to send me out there."

Quinn earned his first victory in his second career start. The 2007 first-round pick went 14-of-36 for 185 yards. Backup running back Jerome Harrison scored on an electric 72-yard run on the first play of the fourth to put the Browns up 23-13, and Braylon Edwards finished with eight catches for 104 yards.

Cleveland's defense also stepped up, limiting the Bills to 334 yards. That's a significant improvement after it surrendered 564 yards in the loss to Denver—and 993 in its previous two games combined.

Cornerback Brandon McDonald keyed the resurgent D, picking off an Edwards pass and forcing a fumble after he was burned on Eddie Royal's 93-yard touchdown that sparked the Broncos' comeback.

McDonald took advantage of a struggling Edwards, who finished 16-of-26 for 148 yards and a touchdown. At one point, Edwards had as many completions as interceptions.

The miscues - two poor reads and a pass tipped by defensive tackle Shaun Rogers at the line of scrimmage - were an extension of the troubles Edwards has had in his previous three games. Over a 10-quarter span, including the first quarter against Cleveland, Edwards has thrown eight interceptions, lost two fumbles and given up a safety.

"It's frustrating right now. I don't really have any good answers," he said. "I'm frustrated with myself and the way I performed."

At least the Bills rushing attack found its groove. Marshawn Lynch had 119 yards on the ground, which is more than the 90 yards Buffalo managed in its previous two games. For Lynch, it was his first 100-yard game of the season, and he also had 58 yards receiving, including an 18-yard TD catch.

Leodis McKelvin also scored on a 98-yard kickoff return for Buffalo, that came immediately after Harrison's touchdown run. Josh Cribbs had a 2-yard TD run for Cleveland.

Three Vikings defensive linemen facing suspensions

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—As three Minnesota defensive linemen travel to New York this week to meet with the NFL, they could be bringing the Vikings' playoff fate with them.

Jared Allen, Pat Williams and Kevin Williams all will meet with league officials in hopes of avoiding suspensions that would gut the team's biggest strength.

The Williams Wall will appear to discuss testing positive for a weight-loss diuretic that is on the list of substances banned by the league. They face four-game suspensions for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy.

Allen will be there to talk about a hit on Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers two weeks ago that could leave him vulnerable to a suspension because it came two days after he was fined $50,000 for hits on Houston's Matt Schaub.

Losing three of their biggest—literally and figuratively—stars would be a devastating blow for a team currently tied with Chicago and Green Bay atop the muddled NFC North. Allen leads the team with eight sacks and Kevin Williams is second with seven. All three play a pivotal role in the team's second-ranked run defense as well.

All three players were unavailable for comment Monday following a 19-13 loss at Tampa Bay on Sunday.

Kevin and Pat Williams declined comment after the game against the Bucs. When Allen was asked by reporters what he will discuss with league officials, he replied, "I have no clue. I'll find out when I get there."

Coach Brad Childress was asked about the situation Monday.

"I understand the question and I wish I could give you some insight, but those things are going to be between the league and who the league deals with," he said. "So it's difficult for me to comment on that."

On top of it all, starting end Ray Edwards could face a fine for a late hit on Tampa quarterback Jeff Garcia in the second quarter.

Allen has said all season he never intentionally tries to hurt another player.

"We play a violent sport. We know that and we willingly sign up for it," Allen said earlier this season when talking about the fines being issued by the league. "We don't ever purposely go out to hurt anybody, ever.

"I know for myself, I have the utmost respect for everybody who plays this sport. But at the same time, it's like you can't make rules to tame it down. This is what we do. We're grown men. We make the decision to do what we do."

Childress has defended Allen's hits, saying it can sometimes be impossible for a player running full speed to let up and avoid an opposing player who gets the ball away a split-second sooner.

That was the case against the Packers, when Allen went unblocked and had a free run at Rodgers. Moments after Rodgers released the ball, Allen hit him high and knocked him down, drawing a roughing-the-passer penalty.

When he looked at the tape last week, Childress said it didn't appear to be a helmet-to-helmet hit.

"It's like going from a green light to a red light without a yellow light in between," Childress said. "He's full-speed, on the gas, and the ball comes out. ... Without being a physics major, I don't think there's any way that you can stop on a dime."

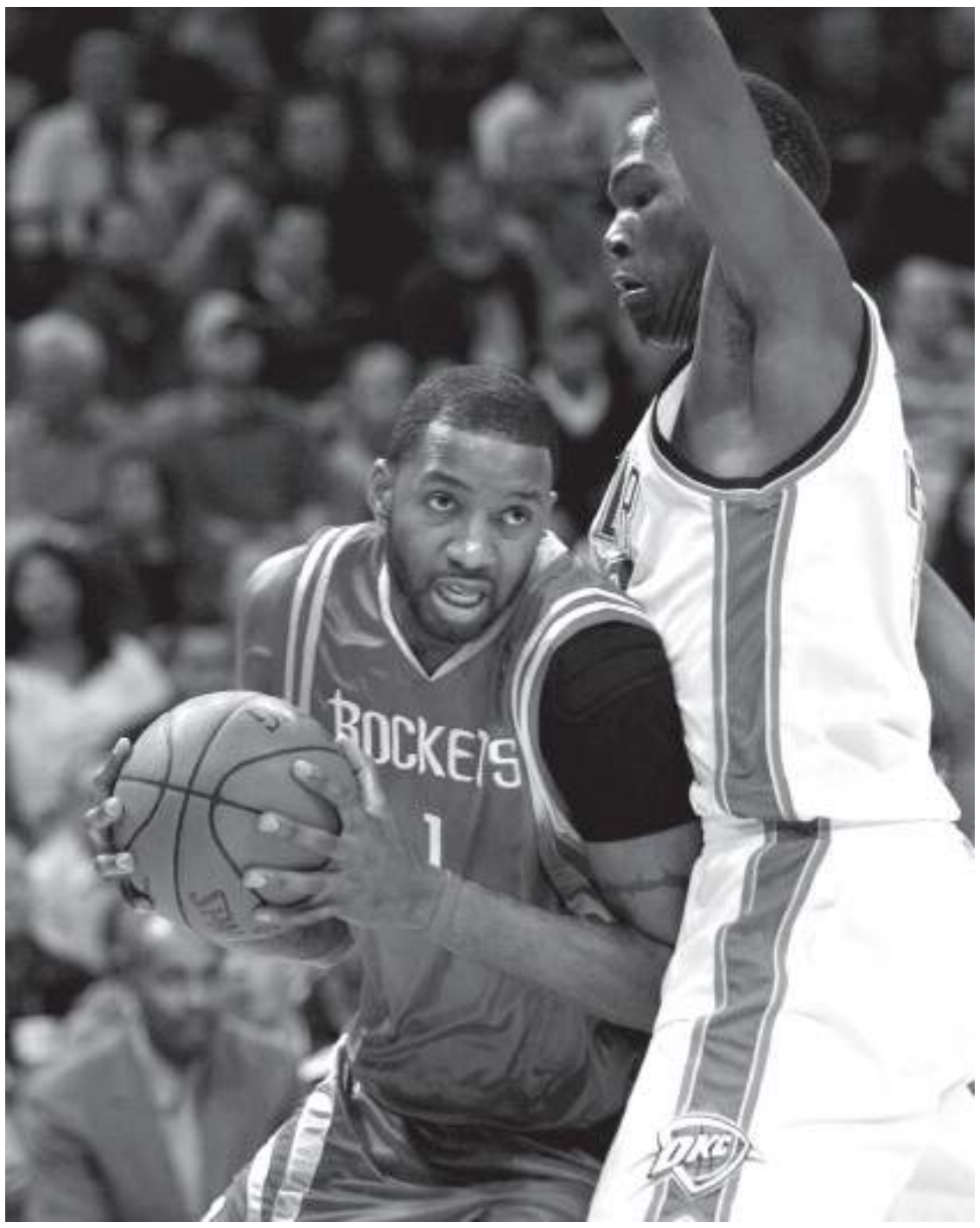
Physics aside, that's exactly what could happen to the Vikings' quest for their first playoff appearance since 2004 if the NFL holds true to its historically hard-line nature when it comes to suspensions.

The league's reputation for sticking to its rulings does not bode well for the Vikings.

The issue has been hovering over the team for the last month, ever since reports that Kevin and Pat Williams tested positive. But quarterback Gus Frerotte, the only starter available in the locker room Monday, said he doesn't think it's had a negative affect on the team.

"I don't even worry about it. I don't even think about it. It doesn't bother me at all," Frerotte said. "It has nothing to do with me, so I don't even worry about it."

McGrady leaves Rockets win with injury



AP

Houston Rockets guard Tracy McGrady, left, drives around Oklahoma City Thunder guard Kevin Durant in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Monday, Nov. 17, 2008.

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Luis Scola scored 23 points, Yao Ming added 19 points and 12 rebounds, and the Houston Rockets made a second-half surge without injured seven-time All-Star Tracy McGrady to beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 100-89 on Monday night.

McGrady left the game in the opening minute of the second half after aggravating his surgically repaired left knee, but the Rockets were still able to mount a 14-3 run powered by Scola and Yao.

Ron Artest extended the lead to 77-58 when he stepped behind Kevin Durant's back to knock the ball away and set himself up for a right-handed dunk.

Oklahoma City came back with its own 14-3 run to get within 82-74 on Russell Westbrook's basket inside with 10:42 to play, but still ended up losing its eighth straight game.

Durant had 29 points to lead the Thunder, Jeff Green scored 16 and Westbrook added 14 points.

Artest added 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Rockets, but was left clutching his right ankle after driving the lane in the final minute. He limped off the floor with help from team trainers to join McGrady on the bench.

McGrady, who had surgery in the offseason to remove loose bodies from the troublesome left knee, never went to the locker room and instead remained on the bench with a towel draped over his shoulders throughout the second half.

Houston still had enough firepower to handle the tumbling Thunder, who have lost eight in a row for only the 10th time in franchise history. That includes an 0-8 start and a 14-game losing streak later last season. They're now 1-10 this season.

The Rockets dominated in the paint, outscoring the Thunder 62-46, and shot 51 percent behind a 7-for-8 performance from Yao and 10-for-20 shooting by Scola, who finished one point shy of his career best.

Oklahoma City came out equally hot, and the game was tied 19 times in the first half. Neither team had a lead of more than two points in the second quarter until the Rockets put together a 10-3 run in the final 3 minutes to go up 56-50 at halftime.

Houston never trailed again after pulling away with McGrady on the bench.

Spurs 86, Clippers 83

At Los Angeles, Roger Mason's 3-pointer with 8.4 seconds remaining lifted the San Antonio Spurs to an 86-83 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers for their third straight victory.

Mason, who led the Spurs with 21 points, got away from Ricky Davis near the top of the key and had no trouble nailing his third 3-pointer of the game after the Clippers had rallied from an 11-point deficit in the final 6 1/2 minutes.

Baron Davis' 3-point attempt as time expired didn't come close.

Tim Duncan had 20 points, 15 rebounds and six blocked shots. Michael Finley added 19 points for the short-handed Spurs, who have won nine straight and 17 of 18 over the Clippers.

Jazz 109, Suns 97

At Salt Lake City, Carlos Boozer had 21 points and 15 rebounds, Andrei Kirilenko added 19 points and two big blocks in the fourth quarter, and Utah snapped a three-game losing streak by beating Phoenix.

C.J. Miles scored a season-high 21 points and Brevin Knight had six assists and 12 points, going 6-for-7 from the floor as the Jazz got the Suns in foul trouble and pulled away in the second half.

Amare Stoudemire led Phoenix with 30 points and eight rebounds. Steve Nash had 14 points and eight assists, but Shaquille O'Neal finished with just nine points and one rebound. O'Neal had back-to-back shots blocked by Kirilenko during Phoenix's slump in the fourth quarter.

Warriors sign Jackson to extension

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Stephen Jackson is one person the Golden State Warriors consider part of their long-term plans.

Golden State has signed its leading scorer to a three-year contract extension announced Monday, a deal that takes the explosive guard-forward through the 2012-13 season.

Since Jackson arrived in the Bay Area in a trade with the Indiana Pacers in January 2007, he has been a key piece for coach Don Nelson and a major spark for the Warriors. He helped the team end a 12-year playoff drought that year and reach the postseason's second round.

"We're excited to have Stephen under contract for the next several years," Warriors president Robert Rowell said in a statement. "He has been nothing short of terrific—both on the floor and in the community—since we acquired him almost two years ago. He has embraced this opportunity with the Warriors and has become a leader of a very young basketball team. Furthermore, he expressed a desire to be here long-term and we wanted him to be a part of our team as we move forward. We view this as a win-win for everyone."

The 30-year-old Jackson is leading the Warriors in scoring at 22.1 points per game to go along with 6.4 assists and 3.9 rebounds in an NBA-best 43.4 minutes through 10 games entering Monday's action. Last season, Jackson established career highs in points (20.1), assists (4.1), three-point field goals (182), three-point percentage (.363), free throw percentage (.832) and minutes per game (39.1 mpg).

Golden State was the first 48-win NBA team not to make the playoffs last season and is coming off consecutive winning seasons for the first time in 16 years.

"I'm extremely happy," Jackson said. "The Bay Area has become my second home since I arrived here in 2007 and I can't accurately describe how good it feels to be wanted and appreciated by an organization. The Warriors from Chris Cohan, Robert Rowell, Chris Mullin and Coach Nelson to the last person working in the front office have embraced me since day one. This organization has put me in a position to succeed and, for that, I will be forever grateful. I am really looking forward to the next several years, helping this young team win and providing my veteran leadership."

NBA BRIEFS

Basketball coaching great Pete Newell dies at 93

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP)—Pete Newell, the Hall of Fame basketball coach who won an NCAA championship and Olympic gold medal and later tutored some of the game's greatest big men, died Monday. He was 93. His death was confirmed by the University of California, the school Newell coached to a national title in 1959. Newell, who had been living near San Diego, had a serious lung operation in 2005. He died at about 10:45 a.m. in Rancho Santa Fe at the home of retired Dr. Earl Schultz, who played for Newell at Cal and had watched over him for the last several years. Schultz said Newell had a meeting scheduled with Jerry West and a writer who was working on a book on West, who played for Newell's 1960 U.S. Olympic basketball team. "He's 93. He had a wonderful life, and it was just old age," Schultz told The Associated Press. "His health was not good, because they had removed two-thirds of his lung and he had smoked for many years. It was starting to be a real struggle for him physically. He was getting more weak and dwindling away a little bit." Newell coached for 14 years at San Francisco, Michigan State and California before doctors advised him to give it up because of the emotional toll. His final coaching job came in the 1960 Olympics, when he took a U.S. team led by Oscar Robertson, Jerry West and Jerry Lucas to a gold medal in Rome. Newell later returned to prominence with his famous "big men" camps. He instructed some of the game's greatest stars, including Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Bill Walton, Shaquille O'Neal and Ralph Sampson.

SEC charges Mark Cuban with insider trading

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators on Monday charged Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban with insider trading for allegedly using confidential information on a stock sale to avoid more than $750,000 in losses. Cuban disputed the Securities and Exchange Commission's allegations and said he would contest them. In a civil lawsuit filed in federal court in Dallas, the SEC alleged that in June 2004, Cuban was invited to get in on the coming stock offering by Mamma.com Inc. after he agreed to keep the information private. Cuban owned 6.3 percent of Mamma.com's stock at that time and was the largest known shareholder in the search engine company, according to the SEC. The agency said Cuban knew the shares would be sold below the current market price, and a few hours after receiving the information, he told his broker to sell all 600,000 shares before the public announcement of the offering. By selling when he did, Cuban avoided losses exceeding $750,000, the SEC said in its lawsuit. Cuban, 50 and a multibillionaire, is a tech entrepreneur who sold his Broadcast.com to Yahoo Inc. in 1999 at the height of the do

Wade misses practice with sprained ankle

WASHINGTON (AP)—Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade sat out practice Monday to get treatment on a sprained right ankle. Wade, the NBA's second-leading scorer at 27.9 points per game, is listed as a game-time decision in Miami's matchup in Washington on Tuesday. He has played through similar slight sprains in the past. Wade got hurt during the third quarter of Sunday's 107-96 loss to the Toronto Raptors, but was able to complete the game. He was clearly limping at times and finished with 29 points on 13-for-31 shooting from the field.

Garnett suspended 1 game; O'Neal fined $25,000

Boston Celtics star Kevin Garnett has been suspended for one game and Phoenix center Shaquille O'Neal has been fined $25,000 for separate incidents over the weekend. Garnett was penalized for hitting Milwaukee's Andrew Bogut in the face near the end of Saturday's game. Garnett will sit out Tuesday night when the Celtics host the New York Knicks. O'Neal was fined for verbally abusing an official and failing to leave the court quickly after being ejected Sunday night against Detroit. The NBA issued the penalties Monday. ***(AP)***

Abuel helps Jeremiah snap skid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Defending champion Jeremiah moved out of its slump after slipping past Ezekiel, 88-87, in the 2008 CIM-FCC Inter-Color Basketball League-3rd Genesis Cup Saturday night at the CIM-FCC Basketball Court in Gualo Rai.

Wowie Abuel nailed the crucial basket that allowed Jeremiah to pull off a hair of a win and snap its two-game losing skid.

Abuel drove to the left wing and connected on a banked shot to put Jeremiah in the lead, 88-87, with three seconds remaining in the game.

Earlier Ezekiel grabbed the lead, 87-86, after Brendon Perez canned a triple from the left key, with 12 seconds left in the fourth period.

Jeremiah sued for time to set up a play and had Abuel taking charge and delivering the goods for the defending champion.

Ezekiel was out of timeout and was force to inbound the ball from the baseline on Jeremiah's court. A traveling violation in the inbound play caused Jeremiah to lose possession and the game.

Abuel did not play in the first half making all his 12 points in the second half to improve Jeremiah's record to 2-3.

Without Abuel, Dan Olivos, Amor Casabuena, and Jonathan Ong took the cudgels for Jeremiah in the first half, as the trio scored eight points apiece giving their team a 38-35 halftime lead.

Perez nailed nine first-half points, while White Capalad and Ernie Moises chipped in seven each to keep Ezekiel afloat after 20 minutes of play.

The second half was another close match with the same faces leading Ezekiel and Jeremiah's attacks until Abuel stepped up and delivered the killer blow.

Casabuena and Bernard Montano tops-cored for Jeremiah with 17 points apiece, while Ong finished with 14 markers. Olivos added 12 for Jeremiah's balance offense.

Capalad paced Ezekiel with 22 markers, while Moises and Perez contributed 20 and 15, respectively.

The loss dropped Ezekiel to a 0-4 record.

Daniel is leading the league with a perfect 4-0 mark, followed by Isaiah (3-1).

The top two teams after the three round-robin regular season will square off for the championship trophy next month. The last two placers will battle for the third place plum.

Jeremiah 88 – Casabuena 17, Montano 17, Ong 14, Olivos 112, Abuel 12, Buenabajo 8, Garcia 4, Lopez 2.

Ezekiel 87 – Capalad 22, Moises 20, Perez 15, Ramos 6, Chavez 6, Galvan 4, Villanueva 2, Rago 2.

Scoring by halves: 38-35, 88-87.

Tough Love MTB race Sunday

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The third edition of the Tough Love Mountain Bike race will be held this Sunday with riders racing from Micro Beach to the Mt. Tapochao.

Participants are asked to be at the starting point on or before 6:30am, as the race will begin at 7am. Registration will be at the pavilion near the Micro Beach bathrooms.

Entrance fee is $10 for NMITF members and $15 for non members. If a participant decides to join NMITF for an annual fee of $25 he/she gets a free entry to the Tough Love race.

Last year, 20 riders joined the MTB race with Nate "The Snake" Hawley and Mieko Carey topping the men's and women's divisions, respectively.

Participants started racing at Micro Beach, pedalled up to Mt. Tapochao through the Micro Beach Road and headed to Navy Hill Road. The pack turned left on the dirt road heading to Saipan's highest peak where timers Kanae Quinn and Harumi Sugihashi were waiting at the finish line.

Hawley completed the race in 34 minutes and 35 seconds to finish 1:38 ahead of second placer Andrew Black (35:33).

Steve Smith won the inaugural Tough Love race with his time of 32:03. Hawley also joined the first Tough Love MTB event, timing in at 35:54.

Florian Braig finished third overall last year with his 36:28 while Lewie Tenorio placed fourth in 37:09. Tyce Mister came in fifth, 37:36; while race organizer Russ Quinn recorded a time of 38:26 to finish sixth. Butch Sublemente was at seventh spot in 38:48.

Carey was eighth overall, but first in the women's division with her time of 39:36, which broke Kimiko Hasagawa's record of 47:02 in 2006.

Hasegawa (56:20) settled for a runnerup finish in the women's division, while Melanie Daly finished third wth her 1:04.51.

Other finishers in last year's race were Alberto Catalina, Greg Moretti, Cesar Fortaleza, Joseph Lieberato, Federico Fernandez, Dirk Sharer, Kevin Carey, Florence Antonio, Mike Johnson, and Alexander Racoma.

DEFENDING

From Page 28

ahead of Neghar Rastguiy (7:36) and Emily Jones (9:31).

Whispering Palms' Kenyon Schultz downed brothers Danny and John Auther in the boys' 10-and-under race. Schultz timed in at 6:56, while Danny and John had a down-to-the-wire finish with 7:05 and 7:06, respectively.

First timer A.J. Hudkins of SIS topped the boys' 8-and-under completing the 1,500m race in 9:06. Saipan Community's Haruya Eda (9:07) and Ken Song (10:17) placed second and third.

In the girls' 8-and-under, Liza Atalig finished first with a time of 9:15 beating Julia Isikawa (9:32).

In the boys' 14-and-under division, Hopwood Junior High School had a 1-2 finish with Tony Pai reaching the finish line first with a time of 13:51. Teammate Peter Mendiola came in second with a time of 14:15, followed by Saipan Community School's Justin Poon (14:29).

Hopwood also ruled the girls' 14-and-under with Geralyn Castillo (16:58) and Christian Asuncion (23:57) finishing first and second, respectively.

AUSTRIAN

From Page 28

RA World in Maui, Hawaii.

He completed the race in three hours, two minutes, and two seconds. Katzer timed in at 23:48 in the swim leg, 1:48:54 in the bike portion, and 49:20 in the run part.

Katzer defeated 56 other participants in his age group and was ranked 43rd among the 466 finishers in the 2007 XTERRA World.

The Austrian pro in the same email said he is looking for a home stay arrangement during the XTERRA Saipan Championships. He will be arriving on Saipan on April 15 and will stay on island until April 20.

Katzer is one of the several off-island participants who are expected to seek shelter from Saipan residents or fellow triathletes for cost-cutting measures.

Next year's festivities for the XTERRA Saipan Championship will run from April 15 to 26.

Major events for the week-long fun and activity would be the XTERRA University (April 15); XTERRA Saipan Championship on April 18, 2009; Tagaman Triathlon on April 25, 2009, and simultaneously the Taga Kids Triathlon.

The XTERRA Saipan Championship is a qualifier for the XTERRA World Championships to be held in Maui on Oct. 2009. There will be 34 qualifying slots to be awarded.

COUNCIL

From Page 28

plain the New Caledonia 2011 [Pacific] Games—facilities, services, expectations, etc."

During NMASA's monthly meeting earlier this month, White told the sports body's members not to let the golden opportunity to meet Boyd and organizers of the Games pass by.

"This is important. It was nice when Bill Sakovich was the secretary general we didn't have a problem communicating with him. Now the secretary general is David Boyd from New Caledonia and it's important that we show him that we are a sports-loving and sports-supporting place."

He added that sports federations which intend to take part in the 2011 Games should be present during the meeting.

"If you're at all interested in participating in the Pacific Games in 2011, and you should be because it's fairly close by in Noumea, then you should come. I hope everybody will be able to attend this meeting so we could show them how strong sports is here in the Northern Marianas," he said.

Aside from the *tete-a-tete* with NMASA members, Boyd and company are also scheduled to meet with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and other members of his cabinet.

Samoa hosted the last Pacific Games in 2007. Prior to that the quadrennial event was held in Fiji (2003), Guam (1999), Tahiti (1995), Papua New Guinea (1991), New Caledonia (1987), Western Samoa (1983), Fiji (1979), Guam (1975), Tahiti (1971), Papua New Guinea (1969), New Caledonia (1969), and Fiji (1963).

DA BOYZ

From Page 28

monds Softball Tournament.

Belau Meyuns dropped to second place in the tournament after their loss to the Guam team, while Shell Marianas settled for third place with Belau Oldiais taking fourth place.

Saipan and Guam teams received an all-expense paid trip to Palau compliments of Budweiser, Continental Airlines, and Airai View Hotel to compete in the King of the Diamond tournament.

Another exciting part of the tournament was the Home Run Derby where each of the teams were allowed to enter two contestants to see who could hit the most home runs with 10 swings.

Balkuu Godfree from Palau took the title of Home Run Derby Champion and pocketed $200 in cash. At the end of the games, Budweiser hosted an awards banquet at Airai View Hotel. The next day, players were treated to an all day Rock Island Tour.

Budweiser has a strong history of supporting softball and all sports on Guam, Saipan, and Palau. For additional information on Budweiser's sports programs and sponsorships, visit www.Budweiser.com.

Budweiser is the world's best-selling beer and is sold in more than 80 countries around the world through partnerships with international brewers or through independent distributors.

Budweiser is imported and distributed locally by Ambros, Inc., Marpac Distributors, and Shimbros International. As the best-selling beer on Guam, Saipan, and Palau, Budweiser is associated with high quality, tradition, integrity and, most importantly, responsibility—characteristics that have made it the "King of Beers." ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	9	2	.818	–
New York	6	4	.600	2 1/2
Toronto	5	4	.556	3
Philadelphia	5	5	.500	3 1/2
New Jersey	4	5	.444	4

Southeast Division

Orlando	7	3	.700	–
Atlanta	6	3	.667	1/2
Miami	5	5	.500	2
Charlotte	3	6	.333	3 1/2
Washington	1	6	.143	4 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	8	2	.800	–
Detroit	7	3	.700	1
Chicago	5	5	.500	3
Milwaukee	5	6	.455	3 1/2
Indiana	4	5	.444	3 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Houston	7	4	.636	–
New Orleans	5	4	.556	1
San Antonio	5	5	.500	1 1/2
Dallas	3	7	.300	3 1/2
Memphis	3	7	.300	3 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	7	4	.636	–
Denver	6	4	.600	1/2
Portland	6	4	.600	1/2
Minnesota	1	8	.111	5
Oklahoma City	1	10	.091	6

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	7	1	.875	–
Phoenix	8	4	.667	1
Golden State	4	6	.400	4
Sacramento	4	7	.364	4 1/2
L.A. Clippers	1	9	.100	7

Yesterday's Games

Houston 100, Oklahoma City 89
Utah 109, Phoenix 97
San Antonio 86, L.A. Clippers 83

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, Clev.	10	106	77	298	29.8
Wade, Mia.	9	82	80	250	27.8
Parker, S.A.	5	55	24	137	27.4
Johnson, Atl.	9	84	43	234	26.0
Bosh, Tor.	8	71	57	199	24.9
Duncan, S.A.	8	83	33	199	24.9
Bryant, LAL	8	70	52	198	24.8
Carter, N.J.	9	76	45	214	23.8
Howard, Orl.	9	76	57	209	23.2
Granger, Ind.	8	60	47	185	23.1
Jefferson, Minn.	8	76	29	181	22.6
Nowitzki, Dall.	9	74	44	201	22.3
Jackson, G.S.	10	74	53	221	22.1
Anthony, Den.	7	55	37	154	22.0
Stoudemire, Phoe.	10	71	78	220	22.0
Crawford, N.Y.	9	67	31	197	21.9
Gordon, Chi.	10	74	45	213	21.3
Roy, Port.	10	73	58	213	21.3
Durant, OKC.	9	74	39	190	21.1
Iverson, Det.	8	52	56	168	21.0
Mayo, Mem.	10	79	31	210	21.0

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Nene, Den.	53	81	.654
O'Neal, Phoe.	54	83	.651
Haslem, Mia.	50	80	.625
Howard, Orl.	76	123	.618
Thompson, Sac.	49	84	.583
Stoudemire, Phoe.	71	124	.573
Boozer, Utah	83	145	.572
Gasol, Mem.	44	78	.564
Duncan, S.A.	83	149	.557
Parker, S.A.	55	99	.556

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Biedrins, G.S.	10	54	95	149	14.9
Howard, Orl.	9	54	79	133	14.8
Randolph, N.Y.	9	32	79	111	12.3
Boozer, Utah	10	34	80	114	11.4
Bosh, Tor.	8	20	65	85	10.6
Gasol, LAL	8	21	64	85	10.6
Bogut, Mil.	11	40	74	114	10.4
Brand, Phil.	10	27	76	103	10.3
Kaman, LAC	9	32	60	92	10.2
Jefferson, Minn.	8	20	61	81	10.1

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, N.O.	9	104	11.6
Calderon, Tor.	8	72	9.0
Kidd, Dall.	9	73	8.1
B. Davis, LAC	8	64	8.0
Nash, Phoe.	9	67	7.4
James, Clev.	10	73	7.3
Wade, Mia.	9	65	7.2
Duhon, N.Y.	9	62	6.9
Rondo, Bos.	11	73	6.6
Billups, Den.	7	46	6.6

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	7	3	0	.700	289	221
Miami	6	4	0	.600	209	197
New England	6	4	0	.600	219	194
Buffalo	5	5	0	.500	219	218

South

Tennessee	10	0	0	1.000	244	131
Indianapolis	6	4	0	.600	224	224
Jacksonville	4	6	0	.400	212	210
Houston	3	7	0	.300	236	287

North

Pittsburgh	7	3	0	.700	209	150
Baltimore	6	4	0	.600	222	180
Cleveland	4	6	0	.400	201	221
Cincinnati	1	8	1	.150	138	249

West

Denver	6	4	0	.600	248	271
San Diego	4	6	0	.400	254	229
Oakland	2	8	0	.200	128	235
Kansas City	1	9	0	.100	165	273

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	9	1	0	.900	292	170
Dallas	6	4	0	.600	230	229
Washington	6	4	0	.600	181	182
Philadelphia	5	4	1	.550	264	193

South

Carolina	8	2	0	.800	222	155
Tampa Bay	7	3	0	.700	219	160
Atlanta	6	4	0	.600	231	198
New Orleans	5	5	0	.500	266	249

North

Green Bay	5	5	0	.500	274	209
Chicago	5	5	0	.500	240	231
Minnesota	5	5	0	.500	223	234
Detroit	0	10	0	.000	173	308

West

Arizona	7	3	0	.700	289	228
San Francisco	3	7	0	.300	230	275
Seattle	2	8	0	.200	190	257
St. Louis	2	8	0	.200	144	317

Yesterday's Game

Cleveland 29, Buffalo 27

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

GENESIS CUP STANDINGS

Daniel	4	0
Isaiah	3	1
Jeremiah	2	3
Ezekiel	0	5

2008 PILCOWA-SMB All-Star Game

Photos by
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League All-Star Game MVP Bonbon Cadagat, second right, receives his trophy from PILCOWA officials Saturday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

The Dark All-Stars with coach Marvin Deocares, sixth left, pose for the group photo after beating the Light All-Stars.

The Dark All-Stars' Sonny Lerio, center, is forced to kick the ball out as he is double teamed by the Light All-Stars' Wowie Abuel, left, and Dennis Vinas.

Junar Guiab, right, of the Light All-Stars, challenges the defense of the Dark All-Stars' Badong Camacho, center, and Mel Capalad.

The Dark All-Stars' Jericho Cruz, left, goes for a fadeaway shot against the Light's Ronald Delos Reyes.

The Light All-Stars' Leo Itaas drives against the Dark All-Stars' Banjo Basila (1).

The Light All-Stars' Wowie Abuel, third left, goes for a layup against the phalanx of Dark All-Stars defenders.

The Light All-Stars' Larry Palero drives against the Dark All-Stars' Jericho Cruz, left, and Bonbon Cadagat.

The Dark All-Stars' Melvin Villarin, center, is guarded by the Light's Wowie Abuel.

The Dark All-Stars' Jun Estolas is fouled by the Light's Ronald Delos Reyes on his way for a shot.

Bondon Cadagat of the Dark All-Stars, right, looks at the basket, as he is guarded by the Light's Wowie Abuel.

Abuel helps Jeremiah snap skid

Defending champion Jeremiah moved out of its slump after slipping past Ezekiel, 88-87, in the 2008 CIM-FCC Inter-Color Basketball League-3rd Genesis Cup Saturday night at the CIM-FCC Basketball Court in Gualo Rai.

26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Cards' Pujols wins NL MVP award

Albert Pujols views MVP voting a little differently these days. "You have to consider everything. You have to put all the numbers together," the St. Louis star said Monday.

24

Defending champs lead X-country winners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three repeat winners were among the top finishers in the 2008 NMA All Schools Cross Country Championship held Saturday at the Airport Field.

Marianas High School's Jacque Wonenberg cruised to her third straight victory in the girls' 18-and-under division, finishing the 5,000m race in 14 minutes, 26 seconds.

Wonenberg outraced teammates Lia Rangamar (17:15) and Lina Manalili (17:35).

The Lady Dolphins took the first place trophy in the girls' 18-and-under team competition.

MHS had a 1-2 finish in the boys' 18-and-under with Matt Mancao topping the race in 12:10. Champ Untalan came in second with his 12:20. Mancao broke his 13:01 record last year, when he placed second to teammate Nate Mateo. Untalan, who finished third last year, also shattered his 2007 mark of 13:08.

Saipan Southern High School's Lawrence Echon was ranked third this year with his time of 12:54.

Other repeat winners were Saipan International Schools' Angelo Jones and Whispering Palms' Gabriel Race.

Jones completed the 1,500m race in 6:32, beating teammate Lucas Nutting (6:51), and Whispering Palms' Clay McCullough-Stearns (6:56) in the boys' 12-and-under race.

Tammy Ackerman of Saipan Community School prevailed in the girls' 12-and-under with her time of 7:36. Han Min Oh (8:06) and Lyndin Johnson (8:24) finished second and third, respectively.

Race ruled the girls' 10-and-under for the fourth straight time, clocking in at 6:59 in last Saturday's race and breaking her record of 8:15 last year. Race finished

See DEFENDING on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

John, left, and Dan Auther in a down-to-the-wire finish in the boys' 10-and-under division of the 2008 NMA All Schools Cross Country Championship Saturday at the Airport Field. Dan finished second behind Kenyon Schultz, while John settled for third.

Austrian pro joining XTERRA Saipan, wants home stay set-up

Katzer

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An Austrian professional triathlete has expressed interest in competing in the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

In an email posted at the unofficial website of the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation, Ulli Katzer said he will be starting his global tour next year and is planning to make a stop on Saipan.

The XTERRA Saipan Championship will be held on April 18 next year.

Ulli Katzer just turned pro this year, racing alongside good friend and three-time XTERRA Saipan Championship winner Renata Bucher.

The 41-year-old Katzer is a native of Anger, a municipality in the district of Weiz in Styria, Austria. Styria is located southeast of Austria and the second largest of the nine Austrian states.

The Austrian pro is ranked 32nd among 40 pros in the European rankings with his 31 ranking points. Katzer gained ranking points from the XTERRA Czech Republic held on June 29 this year.

France's Nicolas Lebrun leads the European ranking with 400 points, while four-time XTERRA Saipan winner Olivier Marceau of Switzerland is ranked sixth with 231 points.

Bucher is the top European women's pro with her 300 points.

Katzer was last year's top finisher in the men's 40 to 49 age group competition in the XTER-

See AUSTRIAN on Page 26

Council officials here to update 2011 Games

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Pacific Games Council secretary general David Boyd and officials from the organizing committee for the 2011 Noumea Pacific Games are scheduled to meet with members of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association today to discuss New Caledonia's hosting of the quadrennial event.

NMASA president Michael White said aside from Boyd also taking part in the meeting, set at 6pm today at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, are 2011 Pacific Games Organizing Committee president Pascale Bastien-Thiery and protocol director Helen Court Wabete.

"They would like to meet with all national sports federations, including in particular those who might want to participate in the 2011 Pacific Games. Please do your very best to attend this important meeting. I hope to see you there!" said White in an email to NMASA members.

White said in a more recent email to the *Saipan Tribune* that the stated purpose of the trip is to "ex-

See COUNCIL on Page 26

Da Boyz wins King and Queen of the Diamonds

Da Boyz of Guam snapped Saipan's stranglehold of the Kings and Queens of the Diamonds Softball Tournament, beating hometown team Belau Meyuns, 10-0, last Saturday at Meyuns Field in Palau.

No Ka Oi of Saipan, which carried the name Shell Marianas for the 2008 edition of the all-Micronesian championship, won the three previous stagings of the Kings and Queens of the Dia-

See DA BOYZ on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Da Boyz of Guam players pose after winning the Kings and Queens of the Diamonds Softball Tournament last Saturday at Meyuns Field in Palau.